JOHN BULL

Vol. XVI. No. 414 | SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1914. | ONE PENNY

(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

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For meaning of this No. see page 38.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

£1,000

FOR A

"BULLET"

6,123 PRIZES
VALUE £2,500

See page 38

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Do you suffer with facial eczema, pimples, blotches, or blackheads? If so, suffer no longer, for Antexema removes every spot, rash, or sign of eczema. The first touch cools, soothes, and eases the inflamed surface, and all itching stops that very moment. Your skin trouble starts to go away immediately, new skin begins to grow, and day by day your skin looks healthier, until every blemish disappears. Accept offer of Free Trial of Antexema.

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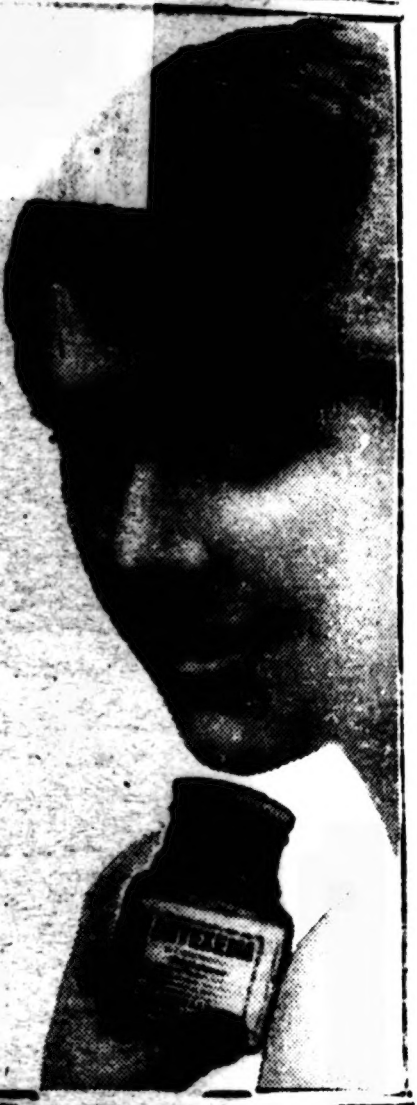

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NAME .....

JOHN BULL, 9/5/14. ADDRESS .....

FIRST READ THIS.
If you predict the "Home" Team will win put in ink a X in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win put a X in the Away Column. For Draws put a X in the Draw Column.

ENTRANCE FORM.

Matches to be played on dates between May 11 and 25.

HOME.	AWAY.	DRAW.	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM.
			MATCHES.		
			Oxford University	v.	Middlesex
			Cambridge University	v.	Hampshire
			M.C.C.	v.	Yorkshire
			Notts	v.	Sussex
			Leicestershire	v.	Hampshire
			Cambridge University	v.	Middlesex
			Essex	v.	Yorkshire
			Surrey	v.	Worcester
			Middlesex	v.	Sussex
			Warwickshire	v.	Leicestershire
			Hampshire	v.	Yorkshire
			Somerset	v.	Surrey
			Gloucestershire	v.	Warwickshire
			Cambridge University	v.	Sussex
			M.C.C.	v.	Minor Counties
			Northamptonshire	v.	Lancashire
			M.C.C.	v.	Hampshire
			Essex	v.	Middlesex
			Worcestershire	v.	Leicestershire
			Yorkshire	v.	Surrey
			Somerset	v.	Sussex

I enter "JOHN BULL" Cricket Competition in accordance with the rules enunciated on page 33 and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

1 Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

Cut here

DUPLICATE COUPON AND LAST YEAR'S RESULTS

Home.	Aw. y.	Draw.	DUPLICATE COUPON.	LAST YEAR'S RESULTS.
			Oxford Univ. v. Middlesex	No match.
			Cam. Univ v. Hampshire	Match drawn.
			M.C.C. v. Yorkshire	No match.
	•		Notts v. Sussex	Notts won by 35 runs.
			Leicestershire v. Hampshire	Match drawn.
			Cam. Univ. v. Middlesex	Cam. Univ. won by 9 wickets.
			Essex v. Yorkshire	Yorkshire won by 7 wickets.
			Surrey v. Worcester	Match drawn.
			Middlesex v. Sussex	Sussex won by 33 runs.
			Warwickshire v. Leices'shire	Warwick. won by 271 runs.
			Hampshire v. Yorkshire	Match drawn.
			Somerset v. Surrey	No match.
			Glouces'shire v. War'shire	Glos. won by 247 runs.
			Cam. Univ. v. Sussex	Sussex won by 5 wickets.
			M.C.C. v. Minor C's.	No Match.
			North'shire v. Lan'shire	Northants. won by 4 wickets.
			M.C.C. v. Hampshire	Hampshire won by 208 runs.
			Essex v. Middlesex	Match drawn.
			Worces'shire v. Leices'shire	Leicester won by 8 runs.
			Yorkshire v. Surrey	Surrey won by 57 runs.
			Somerset v. Sussex	Match drawn.

As the Competition is one of skill, you are also advised to study the cricket columns and reports given in the daily papers.

JOHN BULL PEN COUPON. Value 1d.

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N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XVI. No. 414. Week ending Saturday, May 9th, 1914. One Penny.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for MAY 2nd, 1914, bearing on its Cover the Number 732,448.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The "Crisis" Collapsing.

As we have all along predicted, the "Crisis" is fizzling out. The players in the game feel that they have gone far enough. They have almost reached Reality; and that, of course, is where the Party leaders always halt. To have actual civil war in Ireland; to lock up Captain Craig for aiding and abetting in a conspiracy to undermine the authority of the King; to impeach Sir Edward Carson for high treason—these things would never do. You have no idea what confusion it would cause in the House of Commons' smoking rooms! Besides, just think how much more impressive upon the mind of the Man in the Street it is to talk about the combined statesmanship of all the Parties having "averted a grave danger to the State." It gives the system a little more rope to hang itself with.

Ramsay's Ruse.

Ramsay's difficulty, ever since he sold the Labour Party to the Government, has been how to receive payment without too obviously giving the show away. To enter the Ministry in the ordinary, prosaic manner would, of course, never do. *That* would be playing right into the hands of JOHN BULL! And so he has thought out a splendid plan. A Bill has been introduced for the establishment of a Department of Labour—of course, with Ramsay at its head, and nice little jobs for the other boys. *What* a game it is!

Newspaper Competitions.

By the apathy of those M.P.s who had pledged themselves to "block" Mr. Hogge's ridiculous Bill to prohibit every form of newspaper competition, its Second Reading was smuggled through, as unopposed, at eleven o'clock the other night—and it has now "gone upstairs" to one of the Standing Committees. Write *at once* to YOUR M.P. that unless he opposes it at every future stage you will oppose *him* at the next election—and leave the rest to us. Even the *Daily Chronicle* now admits that the Bill must be "amended." It must be killed.

The Anti-Gambling League.

Our attention having been called to a most scurrilous circular issued by this League, casting grave reflections upon the *bona-fides* of our competitions, writs for libel have been served upon Mr. Gulland, Mr. Hogge, M.P., and other officials.

Then—and Now.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor on the Liberal Party in 1885:—"A servile, unprincipled and cowardly herd, who would break every pledge and violate every principle in obedience to the call of the Whip or the mandate of the Caucus." *Autres temps, autres mœurs!*

Facts for Sir Thomas.

Here are a few "temperance" facts for our old friend Sir Thomas Whittaker—of whom, by the way, we do not hear much in these days. Despite the growth of "Prohibition" in America, the consumption of whisky is enormously on the increase; whilst in the "dry" states, insanity (so frequently attributed to drink) is spreading, and in the "wet" ones is diminishing. Let us pray.

Only Supposing.

Just a word about that little "incident," as it is called, of the landing of 50,000 rifles and a million rounds of ammunition in Belfast during the night—whilst the local soldiers and police were asleep—safely guarded by a cordon of volunteers, with all the means of communication cut off. What we want to say is just this—*supposing it had been Germany?* That is all—only "supposing."

Getting On.

A Birmingham paper announces that Mr. A. W. Maconochie, prospective Unionist candidate for Wednesbury, at a recent meeting of electors "for the first time publicly pledged himself a supporter of the principles of the Business League." The announcement is of course welcome, but it would have been much more so if Mr. Maconochie disentangled himself entirely from Party machinery and fought as a non-Party Business Government candidate.

Swiss Sporting Sweepstakes.

In our next issue we shall deal fully with this subject, with special reference to the £50,000 John Bull Derby Sweep and other big events, and to the proceedings pending against us at the time of going to press, in respect of our alleged infringement of the musty, worm-eaten Lottery Act of George IV—in having done our best, as we shall continue to do, to distinguish the straight firms from the "crooks." Meanwhile, we observe, with amused interest, how the daily papers gladly avail themselves of the romantic stories of recent fortunes won in the John Bull Football Cup and Patrick O'Brien's Grand National Sweeps—carefully, of course omitting the names of the firms—but equally refraining from upbraiding the winners for their "wickedness" in taking the money!

£1,000 for a "Bullet"—Great Holiday Offer. See page 38.

The Only Way.

The belated Home Office Report upon the Senghenydd disaster confirms our own conclusions, published some six months ago. The Chief Inspector of Mines reviews the circumstances of the explosion in terms which lack nothing in point of candour. Though "regretting" his plain duty, he charges the mineowners and their agents with "disquieting laxity in the management of the mine," and alleges a number of specific breaches of the Coal Mines Regulation Act. In respect of these, criminal proceedings have already been instituted, and we must abide their result. Had the Home Office neglected to prosecute the alleged offenders, it is probable that action would have been taken by representatives of the deceased miners, but they would have been severely hampered by the fact that the Report was not available till after the expiry of the statutory time limit for prosecution. We are loth to believe that it was deliberately withheld, and we look to the Home Office to uphold the authority of the law without fear or favour. The prosecution of the Senghenydd owners must be followed by like proceedings in all cases where there is reason to suspect similar negligence. There must be no respect of persons.

Terrible Joys.

The City Coroner recently held an inquiry into the death of a Bermondsey girl who had been fatally shot by a wad from a "toy" pistol. The weapon was not a "firearm" in the ordinary sense, nor was it of a size to bring it within the restrictive provisions of the Pistols Act. The girl had been shot in the back, at short range, while "larking about" with a boy friend who was apparently ignorant of the lethal properties of the pistol. There have been quite a number of similar cases during the past few months, several of which have had fatal consequences. Such death-dealing "toys" are obviously unfit for general sale, and the authorities should be armed with powers to prevent their distribution, or a similar end might perhaps be achieved by widening the scope of the Pistols Act. Meanwhile, we note the statement of a witness that Angel Place, off the Borough High Street, is used on holidays and at odd times as a popular small arms shooting-gallery. Where are the police?

Soldier Citizens.

In the course of recent discussions the position of a soldier in relation to civil strife has been freely debated. It is pretty generally agreed that he is a citizen like the rest of us, and, though subject to military discipline, will yet be answerable to a civil court in respect of any excessive violence which he may employ. This looks all very well on the face of it, but it is by no means a complete statement of the situation. In the first place, it slurs the stubborn fact that a soldier refusing to obey orders which he believes to be uncalled for is liable to punishment by a Court-Martial, from which there is no appeal. Further, it is certain that upon the first sign of big trouble "martial law" would be proclaimed, in which case the operation of the civil law will be suspended and the soldier will know no other obligations than those of an armed servant of the Crown.

"Civil and Religious Liberty."

It is the allegation of the *Ulster Guardian* that Lord Massereene has dismissed his Roman Catholic servants, and that Colonel Pakenham, another Ulster Unionist leader and Unionist candidate for Derry City, has also dismissed a Roman Catholic *employee* on account of his religion. As we have always understood, the only religious persecutors and oppressors in Ireland are the Roman Catholics. Can it be that our informants are misinformed?

Red Light.

The man who never made a mistake never made much else, but it is only a fool who makes the same mistake twice. The railwaymen, the transport workers, and the coal miners have shared to the full the spirit of industrial revolt. Within the space of two years these three sections of workers, with their powerful organisations, were "on strike" for better wages and improved conditions. The mistake from their point of view, an almost incredibly stupid one in the light of retrospect, was in coming out one after the other, instead of all together, when in every likelihood they might have dictated the terms of settlement. As it was, the railwaymen, over-awed by the military, secured no tangible concessions; the transport workers were starved into surrender; and the miners resumed work with parliamentary guarantees which have proved a fruitful source of vexation. The triple blunder will not be repeated. A proposal is on foot for the fusion of the three Unions into a militant Federation, nearly a million and a half strong. "Co-operative action" is the avowed object of these manœuvres. We are in for bigger trouble than any of us has seen.

Pour Encourager les Autres.

Last April a certain parson was gazetted chaplain to a Territorial yeomanry regiment, and in that capacity attended the regiment during manœuvres and took the church parade on the second Sunday. He was told on inquiry that he would have £6 for the training, with horse allowance. On receiving this undertaking in writing, he arranged for a *locum tenens* for the two Sundays during which he was in camp. Imagine his subsequent surprise and annoyance to learn that he had been docked £2 10s. because it was not possible to hold a service on the first Sunday in camp. In addition to paying for his uniform and mess expenses, he had to find £5 for the two services his *locum* took for him at home. This treatment may be described as economy with meanness. Evidently the policy of the War Office officials as applied to Territorials is No Preach No Pay, but why did they not make this clear before the chaplain went into camp? It is very hard to stop a man's pay because Providence by rain and thunder stops his preach.

Vive L'Entente!

For what it is worth in the comity of nations, the *Entente Cordiale* stands firm after a period of signal storm and stress. It was a sound instinct which prompted Sir Edward Grey and M. Poumergue to confirm the existing understanding between their respective Governments rather than to define their relations in terms of a formal alliance. The *entente* with France is the outcome, rather than the cause, of a community of interests between the two peoples, and it must be allowed to mould itself to their respective needs in the shifting chances of European polity. In the somewhat sordid business of diplomacy there is no surer bond than that of mutual advantage. Happy the peoples who can tinge such understandings with goodwill.

A Hint for the P.M.G.

A Liverpool reader sends us what is by way of being a postal curiosity—a posted envelope addressed to him from Hamilton in Ontario and bearing across the stamps the deleting official postal mark, "Help the Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium for Consumptives." If the English Postmaster-General is open to suggestions for increasing postal revenue, what about adopting and adapting the idea? Supposing, for instance, he invites offers for deleting postage stamps with "Eat Beecham's Lovely Pills," "Drink Creamer's Wondrous Whisky," and other entrancing legends of our spacious days?

6,123 "Bullets" Prizes this Week, Value Over £2,500.

Soaring Schoolmen.

At the recent conference of the National Union of Teachers, a substantial crop of grievances were aired. Some of these have grown perennial, notably those which relate to the pay and prospects of the profession. Average salaries of £146 for men, and £101 for women, with full qualifications, can hardly be thought excessive, and there is some force in the demand for widened opportunities, as voiced by the President of the Conference. "If it be not regarded," he said, "as vaulting ambition for the newly-called barrister to aspire to the Woolsack, if every curate is a potential Archbishop of Canterbury, if Napoleon's dictum was sensible that every private soldier should carry a marshal's baton in his knapsack, then it should not be deemed presumptuous for the newly-certificated teacher to dream that he may one day become Permanent Secretary to the Board of Education." This was rather well said, though the analogy is scarcely complete. A Lord Chancellor is a lawyer, a Primate a preacher, and a Field-Marshal a fighter, but a Permanent Secretary to the Board of Education is not a teacher, and is not required to practise the pedagogic art. Moreover, we fancy the Board has need of men with wider sympathies and larger experience than are to be gained in the schoolroom. We want Business brains in Whitehall—and for the teachers, by all means, a wage befitting the importance of their calling.

A Meet Memorial.

Southampton has raised a memorial to the brave engineers who perished at their posts with the foundering of the *Titanic*. Most of the men had their homes in the port, and it is fitting that their memories should be honoured in the sight of their kith and kin. Never did men better earn the laurel wreath of symbolic sculpture or the graceful tribute of elegiac inscription. Yet in the hearts of us we know that that grim tragedy of the ocean, with all its wealth of futile heroism, was among the things which need never have been. We doff our hats to the *Titanic's* honoured dead, but it is not enough. By rule and bond and by the law's compulsion the repetition of such a tragedy must be made impossible, as far as human prescience can control the chances of the deep. If this be done, the memorial to Southampton's brave-hearted sons will be complete.

Justice Acquiat.

Every money-lender knows that he cannot with safety lend cash to an "infant," and it is usual to require proof of age from prospective borrowers of a green and callow aspect. In circumstances recently related to Mr. Justice Horridge, this formality had been dispensed with, the borrower having "lied like a trooper" to conceal the fact that he was two years under age. Believing the youth's statement that he was born in Ceylon and that his birth-certificate could not therefore be readily obtained, the money-lenders advanced him £400, which he apparently made no effort to repay. Mr. Justice Horridge held that, despite their legal disabilities, the plaintiffs were entitled to equitable relief on the ground of fraud, and he accordingly entered judgment in their favour. This decision has now been reversed by the Court of Appeal, which apparently holds that an "infant's" immunity is complete, no matter what trickery has been practised. Yet a money-lender who fraudulently induces a person to borrow is liable to two years' hard labour or to a fine of £500, or to both. Scarcely cricket, eh?

Non Olet!

We understand that one of the principal winners in a recent sporting sweepstake is having a coat of arms prepared, and that his motto is to be *Non Olet!*

Impertinent Interrogatories.

Are there no limits to the licence of cross-examination? At the Westminster Police Court, upon the hearing of a blackmail charge, a witness was bluntly asked whether he had at any time been convicted upon a criminal charge. Having stoutly "denied the soft impeachment," he was told to "be careful," and was then shown certain photographs, one of them manifestly his own, the suggestion being that the portraits had been obtained from the police. The witness again repudiated the allegation, and it is scarcely credible that he should have deliberately perjured himself upon a point susceptible of easy verification. This view of the matter was doubtless present to the mind of the Magistrate, who at length sought to check the impertinent catechism. It was to little or no purpose. Having stated that his questions were "carefully considered," counsel was soon at it again with a string of wholly irrelevant queries concerning certain divorce proceedings in which the hapless witness was once involved. Upon a second intervention from the Bench, the unhappy man was permitted to escape with what shreds of reputation the encounter had left him. This kind of thing is wholly inimical to the interests of justice. Counsel are entitled to reasonable latitude in their handling of witnesses, but gratuitous defamation is another matter.

Not Proven.

Detective-Inspector Tupper, of the Southampton Borough Police Force, recently met his death in somewhat mysterious circumstances. His body was picked up on the railway line just outside the town, but there was no evidence to show how the officer came to be straying upon the track. At the inquest, it was stated that Tupper bore an excellent character, and was in all respects an exemplary officer, but much was made of the fact that on the day of his death he was due to appear before the Watch Committee in consequence of some trivial irregularity in his work. This circumstance seems to have much impressed the Coroner, for when the jury returned a proper and natural verdict that "the deceased was found dead on the line, but there was not sufficient evidence to show how he came by his death," he observed, "That is your verdict, not mine." From this we can only infer that, had the matter been left to the Coroner, he would have stigmatised the dead man, without the least compunction, as a suicide. Such a course would have been grossly unfair to the memory of the officer, and would have inflicted a palpable wrong upon his surviving relations. A verdict of suicide should only be found where there is an absence of reasonable doubt.

A Judicial Lapse.

It has not latterly been the practice of the Courts to accept a plea of "Guilty" as conclusive proof of a charge of wilful murder. The human mind is a mysterious entity, and in many instances—some of them notorious—self-accusation has proved wholly false. Where the capital charge is concerned it is far better, from every point of view, that a formal plea of Not Guilty should be entered, in order that the Crown may be enabled to indicate the character of the crime and to adduce evidence in confirmation of the prisoner's confession. At the recent Liverpool Assizes this salutary and well-established rule was wholly set aside. Upon the arraignment of Joseph Spooner for the murder of his child, Mr. Justice Bray, after some hesitation, accepted a plea of "Guilty," and proceeded to pass sentence of death without hearing a word of the evidence upon which the dread charge was based. His Lordship doubtless had access to the earlier records of the case, but there are other vital considerations, and from the point of view of public justice we regret his departure from sound judicial precedent.

Great "Bullet" Holiday Offer. First Prize £1,000—Second Prize £100.

Pity the Blind.

Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, apropos of a recent paragraph, writes:—"It is true that a great number of people who lose their sight after the age of thirty-five do not read Braille, but the reason for this is that at present Braille books are so expensive, and the choice of them is so limited, that the matter does not present itself in a practical way to the majority of poor blind folk. When, as will before long be the case, the generosity of the British public enables us to provide these Braille books as cheaply as books are provided to sighted folk—and in much greater variety than now—the matter will become quite different. There is no difficulty in learning Braille. I myself mastered its principles in a fortnight, and though I shall never be so expert a reader as a person who has read Braille from childhood, I read it quite quickly enough to find it of immense importance in my life. It should, I think, be remembered that blind children are now compulsorily taught to read Braille just as children who can see are taught to read ordinary print, which means that a generation of blind readers is growing up for whom at present the amount of reading matter is wholly inadequate." We are glad to learn from such an authority that there is so bright a prospect for our afflicted fellow creatures, owing largely to his own efforts on their behalf. In a generation or so the mental vision of the blind will be as cultivated as was that of the unfortunate Laura Bridgman, of whom the great Charles Dickens so feelingly wrote.

Buglers All.

The light and sloppy way in which some English railwaymen go about their responsible duties is again illustrated by the collision on the Great Central Railway in the Canfield Road tunnel, when twenty passengers were injured. The driver of the engine which ran into the excursion train thought he was entitled to break a rule because an inspector was on his footplate; the inspector thought that the driver could break a rule in the circumstances, but afterwards found that he couldn't; the pilot on the excursion train thought, when he telephoned to the goods yard for assistance, the receiver of the message would know where his train was stuck with his load, and didn't tell him; the signalman at the goods yard thought the pilot of the assistant engine should have returned to start the engine according to rule, but nevertheless "left it to the inspector to act"; and *we* think the whole lot concerned should be boiled. "Everybody seems to have relied upon somebody else," commented Major Pringle at the Board of Trade Inquiry, and as everybody was a born fool, nobody did what anybody expected him to do. 'Twas ever thus.

A Pauper's Penance.

At a recent meeting of the Dunmow (Essex) Board of Guardians, the Workhouse Master reported that, owing to the advent of spring weather, every able-bodied pauper had claimed his liberty and set out in quest of fortune. In these circumstances, he had conceived it his duty to select the most efficient man left to stoke the steam boiler for ten hours a day. His choice had fallen upon an old fellow of 73, short of a leg and subject to epileptic fits! By great good fortune the crippled veteran did not fall into the fire or expire at his post, in which case an inquest must have been held, when some most unpleasant things would undoubtedly have been said. As it was, the Master seems to have entirely escaped censure, if he was not indeed held to have displayed singular presence of mind! We would like to make him stoke that boiler till he stood ankle deep in sweat.

Ridley's Rot.

In future, a man seized with sickness while travelling in a railway train should in no case put his head out of the window, but should rather vomit on the floor. This, at any rate, is the logical corollary of a judgment recently delivered by Mr. Justice Ridley. A doctor journeying upon the Cheshire Lines Railway and attacked by train sickness went to the window, as any sane and decent man would have done. Unhappily, his head was struck by the open door of the rear van of a passing train, and the poor man sustained injuries from which he subsequently died. In these circumstances, the jury found that the railway company had been guilty of negligence in permitting the van door to be open, and they awarded substantial damages to the relatives of the dead man. Mr. Justice Ridley, however, emphatically disagreed with the jury's verdict, holding that the doctor, sickness or no sickness, had been guilty of contributory negligence by putting his head out of the window. "If five people are sick in a ship's cabin," observed the learned Judge, "they do not trouble to go to the ship's side. They are sick in the presence of each other"; from which his Lordship apparently deduces that ten men may with perfect propriety be simultaneously sick on the floor of a railway carriage. Good for Ridley! There's only one judge on the Bench who could beat that—and that's himself.

Party Politics *In Excelsis*.

Such is the importance of political Party supremacy in Golborne, near Wigan, that the little tin gods who constitute the Parish Council argued for eight solid hours the other night—six of one and half-a-dozen of the other—as to whether a Tory or a Liberal should occupy the chair, and then adjourned with no business done. By the time this sees the light they will have sat again, and if they are as intractable as on the last occasion they will adjourn again to the same effect. The name for proceedings of this character on a public body is not business, but bunkum; not sense, but slop; for as a chairman we don't suppose there is a pin to choose between one nominee and the other. To save further trouble, we suggest they should both go out at the back and fight for preference, on the understanding that the one who has to have a funeral doesn't win.

"Yours to Hand."

Our recent "Candid Communication" to Mr. R. E. Stuart, Clerk to the Wheatenhurst District Council, Gloucestershire, has brought us a reply. He tells us that the salary offered to the District Surveyor was £80, the figure £30 being published in one of the papers owing to a printer's error. The vacancy for an Inspector of Nuisances, at £25, inserted simultaneously, was practically a joint appointment. Many qualified persons applied for the posts—doubtless in response to the announcements which were free from the shortcomings of the peccant printer—but even at the considerably higher remuneration of £105 a year, the holder of the offices would appear to have to earn his money.

A Uldale Vestry Meeting.

On the whole, peace seems to have reigned at this year's vestry meetings, contrary to the usual state of things. A remarkable exception was at Uldale, in Cumberland, where the Rector, the Rev. H. J. Bell, had an audience of three; one was the retiring People's Warden, who complained that the Rector didn't consult the wardens about anything; the other the organist, who complained about the method of raising the wind, and the other the verger, who—well, he said nothing, but may have thought a lot. It looks as though there were at least one bell in the parish sounding a lot of jarring notes.

For This Week Only—£1,000 for a "Bullet"—Prizes Value £2,500 to be Won.

A Technical Assault.

Pausing outside the shop of a Tottenham draper and seeing it full of customers, a Shops' Act Inspector thought the moment opportune to enter and catechise a female assistant with reference to her hours of employment. So congested were the premises that the draper "got in the way" of the Inspector, and so violent was their collision that the draper fell to the ground. Four times did he thus bite the dust ere the Inspector thought fit to resume his rounds. The sequel occurred at the local police-court, where the luckless shopkeeper was charged with "failing to display" a certain notice and with "assaulting" his unwelcome visitant. The first offence was held proved, and a fine of a sovereign imposed. For the rest, it was apparently held that to roll helpless on the floor at the feet of an Inspector was scarcely a full-blooded battery, in contemplation of law, but rather a "technical assault," which the payment of a further five shillings and costs or seven days in gaol might be permitted to purge. When next the draper anticipates an inspectional visit, he should tie himself up to the counter.

Cat Among the Pigeons.

What a bold bad time we live in to be sure! Here is the Rev. H. C. Percival, Vicar of All Saints, Branksome, telling a vestry audience that during the past year his church has found £500 or £600 for foreign missions, that "if you give them all they want you have to give them all you have got," that "nearly all these big societies have enormous houses in London and a big proportion of the money raised goes for officials and for upkeep," that it "is a blot on the whole system of the English Church," and that "he is not going to have his parish made the playground for every petty little missionary society under the sun." Never, surely, did such a feline get among such pigeons since grandmother's cat died, and there is bound to be a fearful flutter. The silly old maiden ladies who have "remembered" missionary societies in their wills are probably red with wrath.

Cruelty to Pit Ponies.

An old Swansea collier confirms our frequently-expressed view that a vast deal of cruelty to pit ponies is practised without discovery. He says he saw such things done in a Rhondda colliery as made him wonder whether some of the hauliers had either heart or conscience. He has seen "more than one horse driven until it fell dead in its harness in main roads," and "it was a common occurrence for the same horse to be worked for five and six shifts without a spell." If a mines inspector is about "the men at the face of the coal know before he gets anywhere near them," the message being sent by the "journey rider," and if anything is wrong they are able to hide it for the time being. The present inspection is therefore little more than a formal farce.

Why Should Torquay Smell?

When last heard of, Torquay was beginning to smell horribly, householders and traders alike clamouring to know the whereabouts of the dustman. It seems that the local Council, trying to economise, have started with cutting down that humble but essential official. As a consequence, dustbins in house and shop were left unemptied until they got so ripe that Torquay rose in its wrath and started cursing the Unsanitary Committee, and writing to the local newspapers. Latest information is that the smell is subsiding, the dustman having been restored to his former position. As, however, "summer is coming," many prospective visitors will be glad of the official assurance that on no account will the smells be resumed.

In Camera.

In a recent paragraph in reference to the case of *Rex v.* Elliott, tried at Lewes, in which we commented on the fact that proceedings were conducted behind closed doors, we overlooked the provision of the Punishment of Incest Act of 1908, which specifically empowers this course to be adopted in cases coming within its scope. It is only fair to all parties that this point should be borne in mind. The only other enactment, so far as we are aware, under which judges and magistrates are entitled to hear certain cases *in camera* is the Children Act, also of 1908.

One Man Ten Votes.

No doubt the Plural Voting Bill has a long way to go yet, but the days of one man ten votes are numbered. We hold that the essential difference between a man and a woman in this country is that a man ought to have one vote and a woman one perambulator, otherwise the national responsibility of neither is adequately fulfilled.

"Labour Journalism."

The other day the following advertisement—in the form of a huge poster—caught our eye: "*Daily Citizen* —Exclusive Racing Information." That is all.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

THE NATURE FIEND.

The fools who to the papers write
To say: "When walking out last night
I stopped astonished, thrilled, and pale,
To hear the Spring's first nightingale.
Perhaps some reader will declare
If yet that bird's been heard elsewhere?"

The fools, I say, who thus indite,
Or put on record their first sight
Of primrose, violet or may,
Fit subjects are to put away—
Also the idiot who wrote
That he had heard the cuckoo's note.

The cuckoo comes, so soon or late—
Who cares about the actual date?
The pale primrose is sure to blow—
Who cares the earliest day to know?
Who pays his halfpenny a day
To read what such "Observers" say?

Who tells me English peas are in
My hearty thanks can always win:
And when young lamb reported is
I rub my hands and say "Good biz!"
THAT *is the news I now await,*
REALLY *concerned about the date.*

THE WEEK'S "BISCUIT."

[*"Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical compliment. Below we present, each week, and in all good humour, the "Biscuit" to the individual or periodical named, in respect of the achievement or utterance indicated.*]

For stating that unsealed letters relating to sweepstakes tended to corrupt the morals of the postal employees.

Mr. HOBHOUSE,
Postmaster-General.
Takes the Biscuit.

Another Mammoth "Bullets" Prize Offer—See page 38. £1,000 for 2 or 3 Words.

THE INFIDELITY OF THE FAITHFUL.

A BISHOP'S BLASPHEMY—A WORD TO THE VICAR OF BRIXTON.

"What is your religion?" was the query addressed to the famous Lord Chesterfield by an incautious admirer. "The religion of all sensible men," replied his Lordship. "And that is?" ventured the other. "No sensible man ever says," was the retort. The story has been fathered upon Disraeli. It is too good to be the monopoly of one historic figure. It has the essential truth that laughs at copyright. It connotes an instinctive reserve which most sane men have felt. It is a part of the set policy of this journal to avoid entrance into theologic quarrels, but we reserve the right of criticism. Occasionally we have earned censure when we least deserved it. We have rendered no small services to the Churches by flicking vermin from their skirts. Where foul stinks have mingled with the incense of worship we have sent a clean draught of publicity and shafts of purifying daylight. It has not been our pleasure, but we have conceived it our duty. We are not blind to the utilities of religious activity, or even to the mystic charm of sincere devotional exercise. Our reproofs are reserved for its shams, hypocrisies, and humbugs; for its deceits and pretences; for its hollow professions and nauseating make-believe.

Recently, we dealt with the bishop of London without mincing our words or blinking the facts of a plain situation. But we have not yet done with Dr. Ingram. Here is a sample of the oily cant with which this pampered prince of the Church sought to edify a recent congregation at St. Paul s Cathedral :—

> I do not know why there are rich and poor. It may be in order that the rich may be made unselfish by giving to the poor, and that the poor may have their hearts touched by the wonderful generosity of the rich.

From his talk of "unselfish giving" and "wonderful generosity," it is clear that it was the destitute poor whom his Lordship had in mind. Upon high authority "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven," and therefore the Almighty in His benevolent wisdom has plunged some thousands of His creatures into soul-destroying, body-racking poverty that Dives may experience a "miracle of grace." This, forsooth, is the puny guess at the Infinite which the Bishop, for ten thousand pounds a year and two palaces, is not ashamed to publish in the hearing of intelligent men and women. What a message for the slums of Stepney and Whitechapel, sunk in Hebrew "infidelity"! What a text for Socialists steeped, it is said, in atheistic indifference! What a motto for the Larkins, the Manns, and the Tilletts! What a gospel for the submerged millions! Rejoice ye poor and be of good courage, for through your bitter agonies, your starving miseries, your jading squalor, your grinding toil, the pampered denizens of Belgravia and Mayfair shall sit high in Heaven upon thrones of finest alabaster. The most Reverend Father in God, Winnington Ingram, by Divine providence Lord Bishop of London, has spoken it. Let no dog bark.

We take leave to warn his Reverence that with all their marvellous patience, which is something of a miracle, the poor will not stand this kind of thing for ever. There are European countries where they would not endure it to-day. You cannot for ever feed hungry men on the dry husks of outworn superstition. Men with sore hearts and strong muscles will not always be appeased with fantastic promises of a good time when they're dead. A day will come when a parson mouthing such mockeries, be he obscure priest or mitred prelate, will be driven from the altar with knotted cords or such sterner weapons as may be handy. If Dr. Ingram can contribute nothing useful to our social discussions, then, for the safety of the commonwealth, let him hold his peace. Bigger men than he recognise in this same problem of poverty a dire menace to the stability of the nation. They decline to saddle the Creator with the consequences of human muddleheadedness.

A Vivacious Vicar.

From the anæmic piffle of the Bishop it is a relief to turn to the robust doctrine of the Vicar of Brixton. Here, at last, is a surplice with a man under it. Mr. Waldron will at least speak the truth and "damn the consequences." It is a spirit which the British public love, whether in business, politics, or religion. But we must confess that the reverend gentleman has given us a bit of a jolt, and he has certainly set us thinking.

Listen to this :—

> I do not believe in the resurrection of the body. It is unthinkable that the crippled, deformed, ugly body which I buried yesterday in Norwood Cemetery will ever rise again in the old flesh.

Unthinkable to the worthy Vicar and to many other thousands of us, but wait. Mr. Waldron is an ordained priest of the Church of England as by law established, and the Book of Common Prayer is the statutory manual of its doctrine. At this same service, at the appointed juncture, he had said: "I believe in the resurrection of the body." The law of his Church will permit him to do no other. "Black," says the rubric. "White," cries Mr. Waldron, or rather "Black" or "White" indifferently, according to the time of day. The dogma in question is one of the things which he must "unfeignedly believe" or "without doubt perish everlastingly." Yet there, in his pulpit, he snaps his fingers at creeds, laughs at the Articles, scorns Ordination vows, or recalls them with "mental reservations," and declares in set and sounding terms that a primary dogma of his communion, to which ten minutes before he has yielded public assent, is "unthinkable" to men of sense. And to men of honest instinct it is equally unthinkable that the Vicar of Brixton should long remain bondsworn to a Church whose tenets he has obviously out-grown. It is inconceivable that he should continue to eat the bread of the Establishment while claiming the freedom of dissent. For is not he an honourable man?

The Nonconformist Heresy.

A word about the Nonconformists, though for all practical purposes they have ceased to count. We may at least do justice to their past. When dissenters were rebels they achieved big things. Broad and firm they laid the bases of civil and religious liberty. With a curious irony they are too often engaged to-day in attempts to sap the foundations of individual freedom. Once eloquent in defence of the rights of minorities, they are to-day consumed with slavish zeal for the unfettered rule of majorities. A merciless topsyturvydom has buried their historic prestige in a welter of absurdities. Among them the Rev. R. J. Campbell is a man of high culture and of broad outlook, but he has no intelligible message for work-a-day men. Thus he at Eastertide :—

> Is it reasonable to hope that a point will be reached beyond which the light of life will never be quenched? There is such a point, but it is a point of spiritual consciousness, a point at which all desire for individual good is transcended. And to die to this, to die utterly and wholly to it, is to live a life which no death can ever touch again.

What a gospel for Hoxton or the New Cut! Think it over, and then one night, in a leisure hour, walk out under the eternal stars and think it all over again.

CHURCHYARD AS A RUBBISH HEAP.

EXTRAORDINARY REVELATIONS IN A CRUELTY CASE.

In the course of a case in which a man named Dawson, a Wandsworth Road tobacconist, was fined £10 with £8 8s. costs, and Mark White, the Wandsworth Mortuary-keeper, sent to prison for six weeks for shocking cruelty to a dog, some extraordinary revelations were made. These callous brutes took the dog to St. Paul's Churchyard, and while Dawson, the owner, held it by a lead between the rails of a tomb, White bound up its mouth, struck it on the skull to stun it, "put the knife in behind the ear and then gave it a half-turn to get it out again," the dog howling all the while. It will hardly be believed that this man White, formerly a slaughter-house assistant, is allowed by the Local Authority to dissect the human bodies in the mortuary; that on his own statement he "did the doctors' rough work," and had "opened about 300 bodies of dead persons"; that the knife with which he put to death the dog is the one he uses for this purpose, and that he buried the dog in a private grave in the churchyard, "which is a piece of waste ground where people threw their rubbish, dead cats and the like."

One scarcely knows which most to marvel at in these astounding disclosures—the Wandsworth Borough Council which allowed the slaughter-house practitioner to open the bodies of dead men and women lying in the mortuary by way of saving the doctors some of the "rough work" (and, for all we or they know, probably also by way of entertaining himself and friends), or the ecclesiastical authorities who have so little reverence for the dead that they do not prevent the outrageous desecration of private graves in the disused churchyard by human bipeds who open them to bury dogs or use them as the dumping-ground for "rubbish—dead cats and the like." It seems almost incredible that such things are possible in this year of our Lord in the second largest of the Metropolitan boroughs; yet the statements are in evidence in one of the local newspapers, and as far as we know have not been contradicted and have not been explained.

CRUICKSHANKS ON THE CROOK.

A CHISWICK CHEAT AND HIS DEVIOUS DEVICES.

In a recent issue we gave the experience of a Scotch firm who were in July last induced by means of an order written on paper headed "A. Cruikshank and Co., Printers, Publishers and Advertising Contractors, Marshfield House, 46, Chiswick Lane, London, W.," to supply a valuable consignment of blankets, an additional inducement to trust him being a reference to his brother—a highly respectable professional man—who had had satisfactory business relations with them. Payment was not forthcoming, and upon the brother being appealed to he expressed indignation that his relative should have traded upon his good reputation. When threatened with proceedings, the Chiswick Cruick-shank got a solicitor to write a bombastic letter actually threatening his Scotch creditors with criminal proceedings for endeavouring to get their money. We are afraid this is not the only disreputable incident in Cruikshank's career, for an Evesham firm of fruit-growers were in July last induced by means of an order written on similar paper to send Mrs. Cruikshank (at that time staying at Thame), what the cunning Chiswickite described as "a small order"—25 lbs. of fresh strawberries, 12 lbs. of tomatoes, and 25 lbs. of garden peas. Again the debt was undischarged. Nine months after it was incurred, distress was issued on the premises described as those of the printers and publishers—and the High Bailiff reported that there had been no execution because "the defendant hath no goods or chattels whereon I can levy," this quaintly formal printed sentence being followed by these pregnant words, filled in by hand: "Furnished apartments"! In view of the artful holding out of the private house at which he lives with his wife and child in three modest rooms, paying 10s. a week, as the business premises of a responsible firm—on such flagrant misrepresentation obtaining goods for which he does not pay—we think there should be little difficulty in bringing this swindler within the meshes of the criminal law.

TEA TRICKSTERS.

A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE GAME.

Notwithstanding our constant exposure of the various firms, such as the Royal Tea Company, 3, Southwark Street, Borough, S.E., who carry on the "Bonus Tea" swindle, the game appears still to go merrily on, and strange to say, one of our readers—a Harlesden man—who had seen our warnings, has been badly caught. Last January a plausible traveller of the firm gave him a call, and succeeded in persuading him, against his better judgment, to purchase some of their "delicious tea" at 2s. 2d. a pound, on the representation that, as an advertisement and in exchange for using his name, the firm would pay the sum of £4 on condition that he purchased 1 lb. of the commodity for ten consecutive weeks. A week after this interview another representative called with the first pound of tea and stated that the £4 would be paid on March 11th.

On this day arriving, of course no money was forthcoming, but the firm's representative naïvely put our reader off until April 1st—a most appropriate date; but even then his money was *non est*. Our correspondent then wrote to the Royal Tea Company, and received the following guarded reply:—

> Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter we beg to say that if you only have a little patience your wife will receive her bonus. If you will kindly read our circular you will notice it says that all customers are paid in turn, and not in any specified time, and that canvassers and deliverers do not know when our customers will be paid. We will write you again as soon as your name comes down for payment.—Yours truly, Royal Tea Co.

Our correspondent then asked for the names and addresses of the two canvassers who had called upon him—whereupon the Company answered:—

> Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter, and in reply beg to say that the two ca vassers that canvassed you are no longer in our employ, therefore I am sorry I cannot give their addresses. If you care to call at this office any morning between 11 and 1 I should be pleased to see you. I may say they have not been working for us very long, and we found them most unsatisfactory; the address they gave was 3, Amsbury, Streatham.—Yours truly, Royal Tea Co.

The name of the manager of this concern is "Fox," a most suitable cognomen. There may be many other disillusioned customers who would like to run this "reynard" to earth, and give him a warm time between 11 to 1 of a morning. Harlesden is not, of course, the only place where these tricks are carried on. A Wandsworth woman tells us an almost identical story of how she, too, was deceived. Subsequent inquiry showed that a person said to have received a "bonus" had had nothing at all!

A KINDLY ALMONER.

WILLESDEN MAGISTRATE'S LETTER TO US.

We recently had the pleasure of sending Mr. Charles Lee, the Willesden Magistrate—who in a recent case personally settled the debt of a poor carman whose home had been seized for rent—a cheque for £5 from the John Pull Football Cup Sweepstake Charity Fund, for distribution, in his discretion, among the poor people with whom his duties brought him into contact. Mr. Lee has willingly accepted the money, and in a letter to us says:—

> Yours, Mr. Editor, is *practical sympathy*, and your cheque will no doubt ladden the hearts of some necessitous and unfortunate individuals who have not been so successful as ourselves. One receives many letters, not always of a complimentary nature. You will forgive me mentioning a recent personal experience. On fining a man five pounds, or a month, for gross cruelty to a little boy (about 6 years old) by dipping the little fellow into a tank of petrol water, which shattered his nerves, simply because he playfully pulled a cat's tail and dipped its nose in the water, my wife was somewhat amused at receiving from a local lady (interested in cats) a letter intimating that she trusted Mr. Charles Lee would never be allowed to darken her doorstep—hence the penalty of administering justice without fear or favour: *Ostracised from Society*!

The over-zealous lover of animals was doubtless misled by some inaccurate or incomplete newspaper report—in any event, cruelty to children is quite as deserving of punishment as even the ill-treatment of pussy cats.

TOMMY AND HIS OFFICERS.

THE "DEMOCRATISATION" OF THE ARMY—THE PRIVATE'S VIEW OF THE "RANKER."

By "Sepoy."

[*In view of the proposals now being made in various quarters—as the outcome of recent events in Ulster—for what is called the "Democratisation" of the Army, the following article, from the pen of a Military contributor, will be read with interest.*]

"Democratise the Army" is as good a phrase as "mixed biscuits," and conveys as much—for, from the lowest to the highest ranks, the soldiers and officers are as mixed as you can make them. Let me begin by telling you something few people know, viz., that an officer is not a soldier (*vide* the Army Act), so that you may realise that, if I upset your preconceived notions, I do so on the strength of intimate knowledge which I gained both as a soldier (private and N.C.O.) and officer for fourteen years in four regiments.

Certain people have started the cry "Aristocratic officers!" Aristocratic! Ye gods! Why, there are barely a dozen aristocratic families in the British Isles—that is, families who can show their *seize quartiers* (sixteen great-grand-parents of armorial family). As I consider that I belong to one that can, it is not a case of sour grapes. Like the Duke of Croy, our titled and untitled "aristocracy" have mostly made marriages of "unequal birth."

Spurious Aristocrats.

Now to apply this to officers. I do not know for certain, but I am open to bet that nine-tenths of the cavalry could not prove their *seize quartiers*, and that more than half could not prove even their right to armorial bearings. Call them plutocrats, if you will, but not aristocrats. Money is practically the only difference between the Colonel and his orderly, and when the latter is given a commission, and has had the rough edges knocked off, he is as much a gentleman as—often more so than—many of his brother officers. Why, John Burns no longer longs to call on the King in a greasy bowler and red tie! No—he buys a mansion and probably runs to a butler. He was to have democratised the Cabinet! The "Beerage" was to have democratised the House of Lords. The employee who failed to call Lord Pirrie "My Lord" would get short shrift, I trow.

What rot, then, to talk of democratising the Army! The Curragh resignations showed that the Quarter- and Riding-Masters saw eye to eye with their brother officers. What is more—my own experience in the ranks showed me that, while the soldier will look on the putting down of a riot as a "rag," he always differentiated with regard to Home Rule. The soldier's citizenship is not so emasculated that it does not possess convictions on so vital a subject.

But to hark back to the aristocracy of the officers. Not only may the most disreputable "Tommy" be of more aristocratic (as opposed to plutocratic) birth than his officers, but he may be, and often is, as well educated—if not better. For instance, the artist who made the magnificent group at the top of Constitution Hill was in his time a "Tommy." Now as to birth. Is not it common knowledge that in direct male descent we have a Field Marshal who is the grandson of a working tailor? Among the many Generals of quaint antecedents, there is one whose grandfather was a pit labourer; he has an enormous crest, calls any peer's son by his Christian name—and his brothers drops their h's. A Colonel I know is the son of a retired working clockmaker. A Major once told me that his father, who was in the old "John Company" service, began life on the streets; by the way, the father of the Colonel of one of the crackest regiments made the same boast about himself. Then, as to Captains! I could fill a book on their pedigrees—numerous, but short. One, the grandson of a French shopkeeper, now boasts a crest that would rejoice the heart of a Mrs. Tjtmarsh. His aristocratic claims centre in his supposed right to wear a particular kind of stocking! His French relations are as proud of "*Monsieur le Capitaine*" as he is anxious to disclaim the relationship. I put a note of exclamation after Captains. What should I put after Subalterns, seeing how in these days of lack of enterprise the British father seeks the safe and soft billet for his sons? The world, too, has shrunk, and a steerage ticket and £100 no longer turn the lock to Fortune. I take a few haphazard. The son of a successful Australian pioneer; the grandson of a pedlar whose dealings in the Crimea made him notorious but rich; the sons of a retired draper; of a tea and of a wine dealer; the son of a quartermaster—all in a crack regiment. All honour to the men who rise in life and send their sons into the Services, but let the above dispose of the "aristocratic" bogy.

The Ranker's View.

Very few officers indeed have any tenable pretensions to armorial bearings—the "test" of aristocracy. The vast majority are the sons of small professional men (doctors, solicitors, officers, etc.), themselves the sons of moderately successful tradesmen, and these self-made. To introduce a large leaven of men from the soldier ranks could not make the Army one whit more democratic than it is. It would, however, disgust the soldiers. Jealousy is the commonest of human passions. The soldiers, especially the higher N.C.Os, are bitterly jealous of the ranker-officer. "Why should we not be in his shoes?" they say. In France I studied this very question. I lived for some time in the most bourgeois of boarding-houses. Among the dozen or so Reservists that I came across the feeling was bitter against bourgeois officers. "Ah," they would tell me, "when a war starts no officer will go out with his own regiment; he would be shot. Transfers are already arranged. See the airs so-and-so gives himself. One can laugh and forgive them in the Comte de X.; but *he*, he is of the *canaille!*"

What has been the result of the introduction of a democratic leaven into the House of Lords for centuries? Not one-third of the bearers of coronets can prove their descent for 200 years. If the remainder do prove it (please do not refer me to the pages of "Burke"!) it ends in—well, Radical papers have been pretty candid on the subject. Is there yet a Lloyd George among the peers? When he does get there, as he undoubtedly will, will not he hob-nob with the most conservative? When the Premier Duke spoke against the hereditary principle, who was it defended it? Ha! ha! ha! One of the last created barons!

Democratise John Burns.

Democratise the Army! Yes, upset the relationship between the soldier and his officer by putting in a few unpolished young men, who in a couple of years will have acquired the veneer of civilisation! Why, honest John Burns, Privy Councillor, is as much in need of "democratisation" to-day as the most peppery of Colonels. And the same remark applies to nearly every "son of the people" who has been "elevated" to the peerage.

AN ARROGANT AUCTIONEER.

BRIGHTON BROKER COMES A CROPPER.

Mr. Edwin Tully, of Prince Albert Street, Brighton, Distraining Broker to the Corporation of that town, has incurred severe censure from Judge Mackarness of the Brighton County Court, and in the circumstances of the case we are by no means surprised at his Honour's displeasure. Towards the end of January last, Frederick Miller, a local furniture dealer, called to inspect the household effects of a man named Bayley, with a view to their purchase. A bargain was struck, and the purchaser left a deposit of £2 10s., agreeing that the goods should remain in the house for a day or two pending the funeral of Bayley's wife, who had died a few hours before. Bayley seems to have stated that there was no prior claim on the furniture, and he certainly did not disclose the fact that he was seriously in arrears with his rates and in imminent peril of distress. When Miller called for the goods, he found the Corporation Broker in possession, and at once informed him of his purchase. Tully declined, however, to recognise his claim, and refused to refund him the deposit he had paid. Further, he most unreasonably concealed the amount for which he was authorised to distrain, and Miller was thus uncertain as to how far his rights were threatened. Upon inquiry at the Rate Office, however, he learned that Bayley's arrears amounted to only £2 5s. He at once tendered this sum to the broker, together with a reasonable allowance for costs, but Tully refused to accept this or any other offer. In reply to a letter from Miller's solicitor, he declared that he was entitled to distrain for nearly ten pounds. Upon instructions from his client, the lawyer actually tendered this exorbitant sum, but again the money was rejected. Tully eventually "sold up" the whole of the furniture for a matter of £11. These facts were brought to the notice of Judge Mackarness in an action brought by Miller against Tully, for the wrongful detention and sale of the goods. It then transpired that the broker had mixed up public and private business in a most reprehensible fashion. Not content with distraining to the limit of his authority, he had sold the whole of the goods purchased by Miller. This he had done "to oblige Bayley," who was in want of funds to pay the undertaker who had buried his wife. Neither of the men paid a scrap of regard to the fact that the furniture was the legal property of another man. As an auctioneer Tully must have known that the goods had ceased to belong to the man on whose behalf he professed to sell them. He knew that they had merely been left in the house for Bayley's convenience, and upon the understanding that the balance of the purchase money should be paid upon their removal. Yet, in these circumstances, he was not ashamed to cheat Miller out of his rights. It would be interesting to know what proportion of the £11 realised by the sale Tully intended to put into his own pocket in the way of professional charges. It is perhaps noteworthy that, at the date of the action, he had not, upon his own admission, paid a penny of it into the municipal exchequer, a circumstance which was severely criticised by the Judge. His Honour awarded the plaintiff the agreed value of the furniture, less the purchase money remaining unpaid, and allowed him a further sum of £4 in respect of profits which he had hoped to make on the re-sale of the goods. The defendant was also mulcted in costs "on the higher scale." We trust this salutary lesson will not be lost. Municipal brokers must be above suspicion.

"PAY! PAY!! PAY!!!"

ANOTHER INJUSTICE TO IRELAND.

In October last—possibly owing to some premonition—the Headquarters and Military Record Office was transferred from Belfast to Dublin. It was stated that the travelling expenses of the staff were to be paid from the funds held by the General Officer Commanding in Ireland. We, however, hear that not a penny piece has been paid. Considering that most of the clerks are not in receipt of more than 30s. a week, a grave hardship is inflicted. Has the Ulster crisis disorganised ordinary routine to this extent?

VICARY, VICARY, DOCK!

A TIN TICKER AND NO "TICK."

The monotony of the obvious flat trap advertisements in the columns of certain journals has lately been broken by a "genuine offer of a £5 gold watch for 50 shillings," emanating from Vicary, Dent and Company, of 29, Ludgate Hill, E.C. To obtain this "world-renowned solid gold lever" it is said to be necessary to send 2s. 6d. with order and pay the balance by weekly instalments of a shilling. Immediately following a long eulogistic description of the marvellous time-piece comes the phrase "You do not have to wait till all instalments are paid. We send you a watch to wear whilst paying your 1s. weekly."

A Leytonstone correspondent was attracted by this offer and sent the half-crown. He received a printed letter acknowledging the money, one sentence reading: "We say in our advertisement that you do not have to wait until all instalments are paid, but have a watch to wear whilst paying your 1s. weekly, and we shall be pleased to send you that watch to wear as soon as you have paid another 2s. 6d. either by instalments or one payment." The Essex man naturally replied that he was unable to reconcile their letter with their advertisement—if they required 5s. before sending the watch they should have said so at first, and saved postage and time. However, he remitted the money—and was much chagrined and astonished to receive a metal contrivance worth a few pence. This, forsooth, was the article the nature of which had been so carefully disguised! The whole thing is a preposterous fraud, the perpetrators of which should be brought to justice without delay. It is very unlikely that a concern which carries on operations of this character will be in existence at the end of the twelve months when anybody who—despite the signal warning he has received from this initial deception—has been paying his weekly shillings will be entitled to get the real gold article. By-the-bye, Ludgate Hill and the Strand seem to be reverting into a kind of sanctuary for rascals, such as existed in Whitefriars (Alsatia) and the Savoy a couple of hundred years ago. We should have thought the proximity to the Old Bailey would have scared off the sharks who infest the former thoroughfare. Perhaps, however, the rascals bear in mind the fact that—as newspaper reports show—the most daring crimes are often committed with impunity in the immediate vicinity of a police station. The perpetrators of this ramp should think of the third word in the nursery rhyme describing the adventures of the inquisitive mouse who investigated the interior of a clock.

LORD MURRAY'S HONOUR.

PUBLIC MEN AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

It did not need a Committee of the House of Lords, appointed in the course of the Party game, to establish the honour of Lord Murray, and but for the vindictive scurrility of a few bi oted blackguards and low-class party politicians it would probably not have been appointed at all. For their mountains of lying accusations these men had no basis at all, and Lord Murray comes out of the Inquiry with his honour untarnished. He made a mistake in going into American Marconis, in the same sense as Lord Reading and Mr. Lloyd George made mistakes, but his mistake will cost him £40,000,—£39,000 of which represents the loss to the funds of the Liberal Party due to his investment transactions as Chief Whip. For the future, the Committee recommend an "inflexible rule" that men holding public office should not enter into speculative transactions in stocks and shares. That is to set up a very high, very delicate, and very exacting standard—a standard which encroaches on private liberty to an extent many may think the public have no right to demand. A transaction in Consols may as easily be speculative as in the nature of investment. Is the standard to debar a public man from buying Consols in the cheapest market and selling them in the dearest? If not, then why should it debar him from a similar transaction on a similar principle in rubbers, oils, tins or coppers?

Now for Our Cricket Cash. Final Coupon appears This Week. See page 33.

PESTILENT SECRECY.

GRAVE POLICE SCANDAL AT NORWICH.

Cathedral cities enjoy no immunity from scandal—and Norwich has just now more than its fair share.

For the genesis of the hubbub we must go back to September, 1912. In that month a labourer, named Foster, was arr'nged before the Norwich Justices upon a charge of "being found" in suspicious circumstances "upon enclosed premises upon the Newmarket Road." It was a commonplace and trivial charge. Upon his own admission, the fellow had been drunk and had "lain up" in the garden of a private house to "sleep it off." He was disturbed and arrested by P.C. Debenham. But for the fact that he had a useful sort of knife in his possession, Foster might not have been suspected of felonious intent. As it was, however, it was the clear duty of the police immediately to inspect the house for traces of attempted entry.

A Strange Discovery.

We are informed that before the prisoner's appearance at the Police Court, this task was in fact undertaken by several responsible officers, whose observations were reported to the Superintendent of Police. When Foster first made his bow to the Bench there was ample evidence of the offence with which he stood charged, but there was nothing more. The investigations of the police had not so far involved him in deeper suspicion. Their close inspection of the premises had, it seems, revealed no trace of any burglarious attempt. In these circumstances to proceed with the lesser charge would have been the normal course, but it did not commend itself to the police authorities. At their instance a remand was sought and obtained. The time thus gained was busily employed. The house in the Newmarket Road was again examined for traces of felony—and this time the search was fruitful of result. The circumstance may have been due to the more active intervention of the Superintendent of Police. At the resumed Police Court hearing Foster was charged with attempted burglary, and upon the sworn testimony of the Superintendent, confirmed by that of P.C. Debenham, the man was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions then ensuing. There he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The evidence against him was, of course, purely circumstantial. There was paint upon his knife and there were scratches upon a window-sill. The paint upon the window-sill was like the paint upon the knife. It will be noted that these significant items of evidence escaped the attention of the officers first charged with the investigation of the case. They eluded the preliminary notice of P.C. Debenham. They were not traced until the remand. Their ultimate discovery must, we suppose, be attributed to the superior acumen of the Superintendent.

Experienced Officers Disgraced.

Now for the sequel. P.C. Debenham has been dismissed from the Norwich Police Force. This is the governing factor of the situation. His expulsion followed upon a secret conclave of the Watch Committee—but it is generally known that his offence, whatever exactly it may have been, was closely connected with Foster's apprehension and trial. The suggestion that Debenham had earned dismissal by his mismanagement of this case is refuted by the fact that none of the officers who shared his responsibility in that matter has received so much as a reprimand. His fate is shared, however, by Inspector Wentford, while two other inspectors, with long years of service to their credit, are reduced to the rank of sergeant. Here, again, the affair of Foster has played its part, though its exact relevance to the issues raised has not so far been permitted to transpire. It has, however, been asserted by a responsible organ of the local Press that the Watch Committee have "exonerated" their Superintendent and dealt severely with the offending members of the Force. We dislike these veiled suggestions. If there is a charge against the Superintendent based upon false reports, he is entitled to the benefit of public inquiry and open acquittal. If Debenham has slandered his superior officer, then in justice to the victim of his charges he should be made to endeavour to substantiate them openly. If he can do so, public life in Norwich will be the cleaner for his courage. Should he fail, an honest servant of the public will be honourably acquitted of charges which rumour has already twisted into a sufficiently repulsive shape.

BENJAMIN'S BOUNCE.

LONDON LIMITED COMPANY AND COUNTRY COUSINS.

Nearly two years ago, a journeyman joiner was employed by Messrs. Frederick Benjamin and Co., Ltd., of 60, Conduit Street—describing themselves as "Interior Decorative, Panelling and Furnishing Specialists"—to execute various work for which they had contracted at a house in Sussex. The job lasted six months, during which time Benjamin's made him weekly payments, but they usually left something owing. Their coadjutor in the cause of applied art did not press for a complete settlement, though some outstanding items represented amounts which he had actually spent out of his own pocket for materials. On the completion of the work, he rendered a statement which showed £9 17s. 6½d. to be due, the sum including his own remuneration for the last week. In the following May he was able to get £5 on account, but from that day to this not a penny further. He took out a summons and in due course obtained judgment. Still the poor man could not get his money. A distress issued upon the goods of the Company resulted in a report that the warrant had not been executed because the goods were claimed by a debenture-holder. Thus has a hard-working man, struggling to maintain his independence, been deprived of his earnings—and we are afraid that (the amount being too small, and, in any event, the victim being too poor to present a petition for the winding-up of the Company), this despicable kind of petty fraud can be continued indefinitely. We have reason to believe that this is not the only case in which a worthy tradesman has suffered at the hands of the concern.

WHEW!

COOL CLOTHING CLUB WITH WARM WEAR.

Flying in the face of the accepted estimate of the Glaswegian's character, an Ibrox correspondent has had several unsatisfactory "deals" with various "blanket bale" humbugs. Mr. Riley, of the Lancashire Clothing Club, Burnley, duly riled him by neglecting to send back the deposit which had been obtained by the misleading announcement which we have so often criticised. However, a complaint to the Chief Constable of Burnley and to the paper in which the advertisement appeared ultimately secured the return of the 2s. As would naturally be expected, the British Clothing Club, of Manchester, were also reluctant to "part"; the aid of the local Chief of Police was again invoked—no wonder Mr. Peacock got tired of being appealed to by the victims of these sharks and has determined to attempt to cut the gordian knot by means of a prosecution, if legally possible!—the upshot being that our friend received, instead of the blankets for which the deposit was paid at the time of the setting in of the winter season, an article of ladies' underwear. The precious "Clothing Club" evidently do not themselves want any aids to warmth!

PITY OUR POOR—READER.

AN "ESTEEMED AND LOVELY LETTER."

A Bath John Bullite has received the following communication, from Rivers Side, Saltpond, Gold Coast:—

> Dear,—I am with great enthusiasm to call upon you for a matter of corresponding. My wishes has adhered on you most affection to take you as a confidant, and I hope by handing this of my esteemed and lovely letter, you will never give me discouragement of my humble request and do with me. Hoping this will meet your favourable consent. No more to say than my best compliments to you. Awaiting you in anticipation of your early reply.—Yours lovely
>
> J. H. Maison.

We are, of course, familiar with the Gold Coast nigger who writes to strangers asking them to send him various articles of wearing apparel or general merchandise of greater or less value, but we confess to being puzzled by the meaning of this "esteemed and lovely letter." Can it be that the dusky writer wishes to change his colour, and therefore thinks that someone at Bath might help him?

Your Last Chance. Final Cricket Coupon This Week. £200 Must be Won.

CAN YOU SKETCH?

Just try this simple outline drawing.

It is one of the earliest studies in our Preparatory Art Training Course, which teaches Figure and Landscape Drawing by post, in a new and remarkably rapid way. The sketch of the Chauffeur is the work of one of our recent Students who *started at the beginning* and is now a famous Illustrator and Advertisement Designer.

WE CAN TEACH YOU BY POST

to draw for the Press in easy natural stages—from the "simple line" to the "live" finished drawing which is so much in demand by the Humorous and Topical Press and the Advertiser.

LEARN TO ILLUSTRATE.

There's big money in it and the work is interesting and pleasant. Write us to-day for our Illustrated Prospectus 8:—

PREPARATORY COURSE for the beginner. Easy, yet very thorough; written by a leading expert, and beautifully illustrated by over 1,600 drawings.

ADVANCED COURSE for the young Artist able to draw but unable to *sell* the work. Twelve Art Editors show you how to draw for the Press

FREE PROSPECTUSES

and FREE Preliminary criticism of your work (send an original sketch or copy these figures) can be obtained by writing to Percy V. Bradshaw, Principal.

The PRESS ART SCHOOL,
(Dept. J.B. 1),
27, Dacres Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E.

"Punch" has recently bought and published over 100 drawings by our Pupils.

PALMER

Long-life Palmers make cycling trouble-free. The Palmer process eliminates internal friction, waste of energy and roadside misgivings. Five grades—

"STANDARD"—built on separate threads embedded in purest Para—the tyre that made the name of Palmer. Covers **11/6** Tubes 5/6

"TANDEM"—for rough road wear the year round—on "singles" or tandems. Covers **15/-** Tubes 5/6

"SPECIAL"—the "everlasting"—built for the hardest going that a cyclist meets Covers **18/-** Tubes 5/6

Palmer Process Tyres.

The best value and most satisfactory replacement Tyres amongst the cheaper kinds: The "Privateer," five ribbed. Covers 9/3, Tubes 4/-. The "Buccaneer," three ribbed. Covers 7/9, Tubes 3/9. Ask your dealer for HIS opinion.

TYRE HINTS - POST FREE.

The Palmer Booklet tells you how to make *any* tyre last longer: contains Lighting Tables too! Send a post card for it.

The PALMER TYRE LIMITED,
(Cycle Dept. E7).
119, 121, 123, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C.
PALMER DEPOTS at Coventry, Nottingham, Glasgow, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, etc.

LONGLIFE

TO READERS OF "JOHN BULL."

The Entrancing Novels of the World's Greatest Writer of Historical Romance.

28-Volume

Fine Art Scott

The finest mental refreshment for every member of the family—history made fascinating—tales of love and chivalry for every age of life.

HERE in these 28 volumes are years of delight and enjoyment for you and your family, your children, and your children's children. It is the most magnificent edition of Sir Walter Scott ever published, an edition of which

The Great-Granddaughter of Sir Walter Scott,

Mrs. M. M. Maxwell Scott, of Abbotsford, wrote—

"Your beautiful edition of Sir Walter's works! The illustrations are charming and I value the books very much themselves."

Just recall a few of the thrilling romances in which Scott called into glowing vibrant life the long-dead heroes and heroines whom we accompany with such delight through their lives and loves

Waverley. A tale of Bonnie Prince Charlie which took the world by storm. It created his author reputation as a master of historical romance.

Rob Roy. Depicts with vivid pen the adventures of the famous outlaw. Here we meet the never-to-be-forgotten Diana Vernon, and that best-loved of heroines, Di Vernon.

The Heart of Midlothian. The description of the Porteous riots, and the pathetic story of Jeanie and Effie Deans will live as long as literature itself.

Ivanhoe. The most popular romance of over a chivalry ever penned. It stirs our blood as we hear the clash of arms in the Tournaments of Coeur de Lion and it excites our sympathy and draws our tears by the pathetic tale of the beautiful Jewess, Rebecca.

IN the Fine Art Scott, you have all the novels in 25 beautiful volumes — you have two volumes of poems, in which the ring of Scott's cadences is like the rattle of a sword in its scabbard—and you have in handy form that great biographical classic "Lockhart's Life of Scott," that opens the door to an understanding of a hero.

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THE pictures in the Fine Art Scott are supreme — unequalled, and there is little fear of any succeeding edition eclipsing this one in pictorial excellence. There are nearly 800 illustrations by famous artists reproduced in beautiful half-tone and there are 28 beautiful hand-printed photogravures.

On a First Subscription of only 2/6

you receive these 28 volumes of thrilling Romances and Poems, and if you are one of the early subscribers you will receive a beautiful

OAK BOOK-CASE FREE.

This Coupon will bring you a Beautiful Booklet FREE.

Fill in and send this coupon for full particulars

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THE EDUCATIONAL BOOK CO.,
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Please send me full particulars and subscription terms of the Fine Art Scott in twenty-eight volumes, including the special Oak Bookcase, which is presented to prompt subscribers without extra charge.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Occupation.....

JB 5

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

The Royal Academy opens once more,
Where, for the small sum of a shilling,
You may gaze by the hour upon pictures that bore
You to death—so they truly are "killing."

Some reckon the Chancellor's Budget a trap
For catching the innocen voter,
For whose welfare the Cabinet don't care a rap
Or that much lesser thing—an iota!

The Shamrock will shortly be ready for sea,
And her owner's high hopes, mounting up,
Would have us expect that quite possibly she
Will win the America Cup.

The Bill to empower our seaside resorts
To press on the public their charm,
At the ratepayers' cost, fills, so say the reports,
Foreign holiday towns with alarm.

Tho' Asquith is willing to patch up a peace
With Carson, he has to decline,
Because, so the tale goes, Redmond won't cease
To compel him in "toeing the line."

A young sausage maker who's fond of his work
The picture above represents.
He'll do 80 hours, which many would shirk,
But the law such hard labour prevents.

A BUSINESS PARSON.

BIRMINGHAM VICAR'S HAPPY ILLUSTRATION OF A TEXT.

Upon a recent Sunday, the Rev. A. E. Heaton, Vicar of St. Luke's, Edgbaston, was thoroughly up-to-date in his appeal to his congregation, for he took for his text a line of Keble's famous hymn, "There is a book who runs may read." He emphasised that the "book" spoken of was not the Bible, as many people think, but the Book of Nature, pointing out the plainness of the lessons taught by our great "mother." The part of the discourse which particularly interests us, however, was his application of the words to the everyday sights of the cities. Said he: "Everyone who runs may read the JOHN BULL posters; they are so big, so plain, that you can read them as you hurry by on your way to business, or even while going past on the top of a tram without stopping—'He who runs may read.'" One of the church officials humorously remarked to the reverend gentleman that he thought we ought to be written to and asked for a donation of a guinea to the Church funds, in return for the excellent advertisement. Mr. Heaton, being—as will have been already perceived—of a practical turn of mind, promptly adopted the idea, and we have had pleasure in sending a cheque to help to pay for an electric lantern for the use of the parish.

By the way, in the development of the idea there are infinite possibilities. The Rev. Mr. Meyer should receive from the cocoa magnates generous recognition of his efforts, while the Bishop of London would doubtless not be forgotten by the makers of infants' foods.

A DUCAL AUCTIONEER.

With his hammer in his hand,
His hands encased in kids,
The duke he mounts the rostrum,
With an eagle eye for bids.

* * * * *

Oh, land is going cheap,
There are acres up for sale,
A duke is selling his birthright,
He downs it on the nail;
The working man and commoner
Can plant his humble spud
In soil that has for centuries
Been joined to ducal blood.

Farmer Hodge has but to bid
To buy a wanted spot;
Another shilling on the pole,
And so he wins his lot.
It's strange to see a duke up there
With cash-entreating face,
But there—it isn't any sort
Of disgrace to his race.

With his hammer in his hand,
And "Now, gents!" on his lips,
The duke extols his meadows
And drops financial tips.
Oh land is going cheap to-day,
It's knocked down block by block—
May it be long before, in turn,
The duke shall take the knock!

Don't forget the Pen Coupon—On PAGE 2 of cover.

£1,000 in PRIZES

OATINE PICTURE COMPETITION

5,363 PRIZES.

1st Prize	-	£100
2nd ,,	-	£50
3rd ,,	-	£25
10 Prizes of		£5
50 ,,		£1
100 ,,		10/-
200 ,,		5/-

and 5,000 2/6 Boxes of Oatine Soap.

Closing Date, MAY 20th.

The following Oatine Preparations are stocked by all chemists, but should there be any difficulty in obtaining same, they will be supplied direct by The Oatine Company post free by return.

OATINE CREAM.

The ideal skin food. By getting down into the pores, it removes dirt and grime which soap and water cannot reach. It should be used nightly before retiring. In white jars, 1s. 1½d.

OATINE SNOW.

For whitening the skin, and for protecting it during the day. Non-greasy and absolutely pure. Makes the skin soft and velvety. Delicately perfumed and pleasant to use. 1s.

OATINE SOAP.

Made from the finest materials. Contains the healing and cleansing properties of the oat. Gives a soft, creamy lather. 2s. 6d. a box of 3 large tablets.

OATINE SHAVING STICK.

Ensures a clean and comfortable shave, and a free, smooth and lasting lather. Packed in special metal cylinders, 1s.

OATINE TOOTH PASTE.

Antiseptic and germ destructive. Prevents accumulation of tartar and decay keeps the gums healthy, and the breath sweet. 1s.

NO ENTRANCE FEE. 12 PICTURES ONLY.

In announcing this competition, The Oatine Company wish to specially emphasise that it is a QUICK COMPETITION, being open until the 20th of this month only.

The adjoining pictures represent the names of railway stations in Great Britain, and competitors have to write underneath each picture the name of the station represented. Each of these pictures may be solved by careful attention to all the details. Care and skill are necessary for their correct solution.

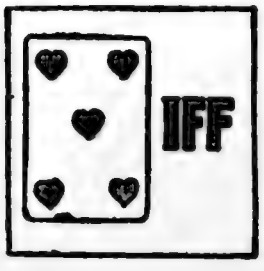
The correct list of the stations the pictures represent is in a sealed envelope, lodged with the Editor of THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL, and is known only to him. This list will not be opened or handed to The Oatine Company until after the competition is closed, and as soon as the judging is completed, a complete list of winners, and a copy of the correct solutions, will be posted to every competitor.

Only one name may be written under each picture, and the entry form below must be correctly filled in.

There is no entrance fee, but every set must be accompanied by a coupon taken from one of the Oatine preparations mentioned below. (This coupon is packed with each preparation, and need not refer to this competition.)

Should no competitor send in the correct list, the prizes will go to the competitors whose lists are most nearly correct in the event of two or more competitors tying for prizes, the prizes will be awarded to the entries first opened.

No. 1.....



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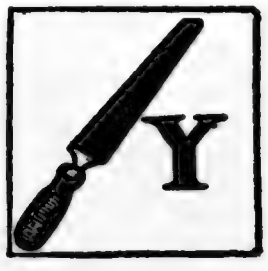
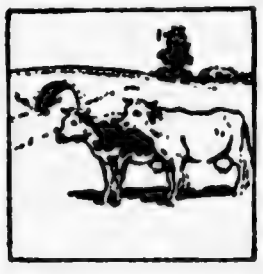


No. 3.....

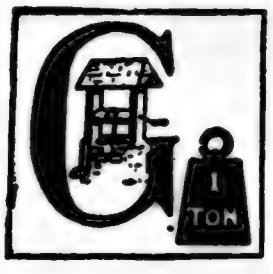
No. 4.....

No. 5.....



No. 6.....

No. 7.....



No. 8.....

No. 9.....

No. 10.....

No. 11.....

No. 12.....

OATINE SHAMPOO POWDERS.

Do not injure the healthy growth of the hair, but while cleansing thoroughly leave it soft and glossy, enhancing its natural colour. Oatine Shampoo Powders are prepared in two varieties, one for dry hair, sold in red packets; the other for oily hair, sold in green packets. State which kind you require. 1s. box of 7 packets

The OATINE Co., 625, Oatine Buildings, London, S.E.

ENTRY FORM.

Name (Mr., Mrs. or Miss).....

Address.....

.....

THIS COMPETITION WILL INTEREST YOUR FRIENDS

A SHABBY SHUFFLE.

NORFOLK VILLAGERS' "STRIKING" PROTEST.

In the village of Burston, Norfolk, a "strike" of school-children is in active progress. Defying the summons of the school bell, the youngsters daily march in procession through the village, flaunting banners of revolt. They enjoy the full sympathy of their parents, and their enthusiasm has infected the entire population. The cause of all the bother may be gathered from the terms of the following resolution, carried with acclamation at a recent open-air demonstration at which nearly the whole of the villagers were mustered:—

> That we, electors and ratepayers of Burston and Shimpling, in public meeting assembled on Burston Common, again protest against the action of certain School Managers in bringing about the dismissal of the teachers Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Higdon, whom we all desire to keep; we who are parents have been more than satisfied with the educational progress made by our children during the past three years; the children have liked going to school and have been more regular in their attendance than ever before; the report of his Majesty's Inspector is a most excellent one, so that upon no grounds whatever can we see any reasonable excuse for the removal of these teachers from the school.

A finer tribute to the character and efficiency of the teachers can scarcely be imagined, yet towards the end of last year they seem to have incurred the displeasure of the Managers. A secret "inquiry" was instituted, and in March last Mr. and Mrs. Higdon were dismissed by the Norfolk Education Committee, with salary in lieu of notice.

For an explanation of these happenings we must peep behind the scenes. Like most rural seminaries the school at Burston, though rate-aided, is largely under clerical control. Among the Managers are two parsons, the wife of one of them, and a Warden of the Parish Church. Mr. Higdon, it seems, was not a Churchman, and he took no part in those "Sunday duties" which village schoolmasters are wont to discharge. His spare time was devoted to the organisation of agricultural labourers upon Trade Union lines, a movement which has aroused fierce antagonism in the shires. At the last election, the Schoolmaster, with five labourers of his own way of thinking, was triumphantly returned to the Parish Council. Room was made for them by the unseating of the Rector and the leading farmers!

"Getting On" and "Getting Out."

In these striking circumstances, it is perhaps not surprising that the Managers of the school should have entreated the County Education Committee to remove Mr. Higdon "to a more genial sphere of work." Up to this point their action, though open to question, was at least devoid of pretence. They could not "get on" with Mr. Higdon, and therefore wished him to "get out." Unhappily for this scheme, the Schoolmaster was an "awkward" man to tackle. His popularity in the village, evidenced in undeniable fashion at the polls, was a stubborn factor in the situation. Moreover, the conduct which had brought him into disfavour with the Managers was not such as to warrant his removal. The Committee therefore, declined to interfere.

Parson's Lady and Master's Wife.

The rôle of scapegoat was reserved for the Schoolmaster's wife. An early opportunity was found to charge her with the ill-treatment of two of her pupils and—whisper it with bated breath—"intentional discourtesy" to the Rector's wife. The first allegation was stoutly denied by Mrs. Higdon, though she admitted that for excellent reasons she had perhaps been somewhat "cool" in her reception of the parson's lady. Here, clearly, was matter for inquiry. The Rector was invited to visit the school at his convenience, and there to take what steps he liked for the ascertainment of the truth. He declined to adopt this open procedure. The fact that the Managers chose to deliberate in secret upon matters of grave public importance has robbed their decision of all title to respect. In their fight for reinstatement the teachers are encouraged, as we have seen, by the solid support of the parents, by whom the trumpery charges against Mrs. Higdon have been laughed to scorn. The Norfolk Education Committee, which appears to have acted upon the initiative of the Burston Managers and with insufficient deliberation, should revise its hasty judgment without delay.

A WARNING TO WORKMEN.

LEGAL AID OR LEGAL ROBBERY?

We have often cautioned our readers to have nothing to do with so-called "Legal Aid Societies." Our warnings are reinforced by the following concrete case. A poor man, living at Stratford, contracted lead poisoning in July last whilst following his employment. The masters at the outset admitted their liability and paid him a pound a week. This arrangement had been going on for a couple of months, when a firm of solicitors who are notoriously connected with the Legal Aid Society in question—which body, as a matter of fact, mainly exists for the purpose of acting as their jackalls—wrote offering to bring an action against the employers. On the understanding that the costs were to come entirely out of the pockets of the masters, when the case had been won, the suggestion was accepted. Meantime, the man, being unable to support his wife and family on his reduced income, persuaded his doctor to allow him to return to his job. At the end of ten days, however, it was absolutely impossible for him to continue, and the hospital doctors advised him to lay up again. As a matter of fact, he has never been able to work since. In December the claim came before an arbitrator appointed by the County Court Judge. An offer of a sum in settlement had been made by the defendants, but although the Legal Aid Society advised their client to accept it, he resolutely declined, in view of the lifelong disability which he by that time foresaw. After this refusal, their efforts on his behalf apparently became of a very lukewarm character—for no medical evidence was called at the hearing, his doctor not even being subpœnaed, nor, of course, was the testimony of the Medical Officer of the West Ham Union placed before the Court—though his opinion had been sufficient to convince the Guardians of the poor fellow's continued inability to earn his living, and had warranted them in granting him further outdoor relief. The arbitrator, consequently, gave a decision in favour of the employers.

Solicitors of the character of the firm referred to are naturally chary of fighting a case, because their unprofessional conduct is likely to be brought to light; it is much easier and safer to settle, no matter how inadequate the amount the unfortunate client ultimately receives.

RATS!

MUCH ADO ABOUT THREE-HA'PENCE.

A Board of Trade officer, dealing with Part 2 of the National Insurance Act, recently unearthed a mass of correspondence, from which it appeared that the Manager of a North of England Labour Exchange had included in his monthly statement of accounts an item thus:—"To amount expended on fish for baiting the office rat traps—1½d." This wanton extravagance was at once challenged by the Auditor at the Divisional Office. The Manager, however, was a fighter and refused to be beaten. He at once wrote back stating that the item in question was quite legitimate expenditure. The letter set the ball a-rolling. Correspondence on the momentous subject passed between the Divisional Office and the Central Office, and in its progress the file was initialled by some twenty or thirty officers, each adding his observations. Ultimately, after a lapse of two months, the belated file arrived at the Office of Works, as the traps—now historic throughout the Service had been supplied from that establishment. The Clerk in Charge here was apparently the first to appreciate the humour of the situation, for his remarks read:—"Our duty is to supply buildings for Labour Exchanges and to suitably furnish same. We do not supply rats; therefore we cannot hold ourselves responsible for their upkeep." After another shoal of letters and many departmental "conversations," the Manager triumphed, and was graciously remitted the sum of three-halfpence, to be duly acknowledged on the appropriate official form. The column in which the payment is shown is headed "Subsistence." The value represented in franked envelopes used in the correspondence could alone have provided bait for the fabulous hordes which followed the "Pied Piper."

Nothing but Praise for the "John Bull" Pen. Had Yours Yet?

GLESCO SPORTS JACKETS fashioned with stitched half belt at back and patch pockets, in fine hard-wearing tweeds, 13/6 and 17/6

GLESCO FLANNEL TROUSERS in white and grey with side straps and buckles and loops for belt. Permanent turn-up. 7/6 and 10/6

A Genuine Scotch Sports Jacket for 13/6

¶ These Glesco Sports Jackets have been planned with a complete understanding of the needs of the outdoor man. They are smart in appearance but not too "dressy" and allow ample freedom for vigorous movement.

¶ The perfect fit of Glesco Sports Jackets is due to the wide range of scientifically graded fittings—three lengths of sleeve and skirt to every chest measurement.

¶ The Tweeds employed for Glesco Sports Jackets are specially hardwearing Scotch Homespun and Donegal Effects.

¶ In style, fitting and wear these Sports Jackets are in every way equal to Jackets sold at prices from 21/- to 35/—only the large number sold enables us to offer them at the low price of 13/6 and 17/6.

SENT ON APPROVAL FOR SIX DAYS

Send us your chest measurement and height for a perfect fitting Glesco Sports Jacket. For Glesco Flannel Trousers send waist measure and length of leg from fork. If you desire to know more about this unique Sporting Wear send for the folder "Glesco Wear for the Outdoor Man" and patterns sent free on request.

Glasgow Clothing Co

ARGYLE STREET :: :: :: :: :: GLASGOW.

FARROW'S BANK LIMITED.

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K. 1.

It can be yours by

OUR UNIQUE EASY PAYMENT SYSTEM.

The first instalment, 25% of purchase price, brings you a brand new BELSIZE TAXI CAB and all the time you are making the other payments spread over two years, your taxi is earning you big money.

Drive while you pay.
Pay while you drive.

There's a good income waiting for the sharp man who owns an up-to-date BELSIZE TAXI. What others are doing you can do. You should write at once for Car List and particulars of our Easy Payment System.

BENTINCK MOTOR SUPPLY CO., LTD.,
13, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

HARD MEASURE.

TENANT RIGHT AND A TENANTS' WRONG.

A reader writes to inform us that he "has a grievance," and upon the facts as he states them we are disposed to agree. He declares that for three years past he has occupied a cottage with a nice garden, in which he has taken considerable pride. Returning from work a few days ago, he found the railings torn down and his flower beds trampled upon and strewn with builders' materials. His neighbours' territory had been similarly invaded. Upon inquiry, he learned that the owner of the property, without notice to his tenants, had sold two thirds of their garden space for building purposes.

By this unlooked-for occurrence, our correspondent was put to considerable inconvenience. He is something of a chicken-fancier, and the adjustment of his "runs" has involved much labour and some expense. Had he anticipated any such curtailment of his space he would have looked around for another cottage, but "houses to let" are scarce in the district, and for the present he must make the best of his uncomfortable situation. Were he selfishly disposed, he might console himself with the knowledge that certain of his neighbours are in even worse case. He appears genuinely concerned at the plight of one particular couple. "These old people," he writes, "have made a little out of cut flowers during the summer months. Now the poor old chap's garden is covered with building materials. All the flowers and plants are crushed. Like the rest of us, the old man has not received any notice from the landlord, nor has he received any compensation."

This landlord, whoever he is, would certainly not appear to be overflowing with the milk of human kindness. Howbeit, if the facts are as stated, his action constitutes a distinct invasion of his tenants' rights. The renting of a house, whether cot or castle, involves a right to the undisturbed possession of all lands "usually enjoyed therewith," unless they are the subject of clear exception. In the present instance, the landlord had clearly no right to cut down his tenants' garden space at his own sweet will. He should have given notice of his intention, in order that the cottagers, if they so chose, might have terminated their tenancies. In the absence of such notice, the laying waste of their gardens was an actionable trespass in respect of which "the old people" might recover damages. The landlord, however, will perhaps see his way to make private reparation for a wrong, which, we will hope, was due to "want of thought" rather than "want of heart."

THE CUSSEDNESS OF CUSSENS.

WHY THE PAROCHIAL POTENTATE PARTED WITH HIS PONY.

Mr. T. B. Cussens is a member of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, and he has an inquiring turn of mind—which will not recommend him to Mr. Green, the Workhouse Master. Here are a few of the pertinent—and impertinent—points upon which he desires information :—

> Is it in the interest of the ratepayers that the Master and Matron of the Workhouse, whose chief duties are the receipt and distribution of provisions, should, while living on the premises, be allowed £52 a year each for rations, £15 and £10 a year respectively for washing, and £15 a year for what are called household necessaries; whereas if these allowances were drawn from store (as all other officers do in similar positions), the saving to the ratepayers would be about 50 per cent.?
>
> On whose authority does the Master use the Workhouse premises to house a motor car for his personal private use, employ an inmate to clean the car, and use the ratepayers' money to wash it; in the event of an explosion on the premises by the use and storage of petrol or motor spirit, who would be held to be responsible?

It will be remembered that two years ago we felt called upon to pass certain criticism upon the nature of Mr Green's appointment. He then was the proud possessor of a fat pony and a governess cart. He has moved with the times; he and his pony have parted, and he now possesses an up-to-date motor-car. Unless the attentions of Mr. Cussens occupy his mind in another direction, we shall expect soon to hear that the Master has purchased an aeroplane and is training the tramps to fly.

SWOLLEN COSTS.

MAGISTRATES WHO FLOUT THE LAW.

The order "five shillings and costs" is a hackneyed commonplace of magisterial procedure, but there can be little doubt that in the majority of instances it is flatly illegal. The point is governed by the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1879, Section 8 of which reads :—

> Where a fine does not exceed five shillings, unless the Court think fit expressly to order otherwise, no order shall be made for payment of costs by the defendant.

Many Justices, however, have regularly ordered the payment of costs as an accompaniment of trivial fines, and as long ago as 1891 this mischievous practice incurred official condemnation. In a circular letter to the Chairmen of Petty Sessional Divisions, dated in March of that year, the then Home Secretary thought it necessary to draw the especial attention of Justices to the enactment quoted, which was, he said, "frequently overlooked by Magistrates in passing sentence on persons summarily convicted of trivial offences." This reminder was accompanied by an expression of opinion which has since received judicial sanction. The circular proceeded :—

> The enactment appears to the Secretary of State clearly to imply that the non-imposition of costs is the course that should ordinarily be followed where the fine imposed is not more than five shillings, and that an express Order to the contrary should be made only when the Justices have some special reason for so doing.

This view of the matter may now be regarded as settled law. Yet at Bromley, the other day, a man convicted of permitting a dog to stray without a collar was fined half-a-crown with ten shillings costs! No reason was assigned for the heaviness of the latter impost, and there was nothing in the circumstances of the case to justify a departure from the general rule. In response to an emphatic protest by the defending solicitor the Chairman naively observed:—

> If you had asked me outside the Court if the fees were heavy I should have been disposed to agree with you, as I have suffered in the same way myself.

Inside the Court, however, the worthy gentleman declined to vary the decision of the Bench. What he had said, he had said—let the law be what it might.

It is interesting to note that the Home Office circular of 1891 was inspired by the "hope of lessening the number of persons sent to prison for the non-payment of sums of money." It has taken the Home Office more than twenty years to devise a practical means towards this desirable end. The Bill now before Parliament does not, moreover, propose to deal radically with the evil of excessive costs, and though the injustice of imprisonment will be obviated, much remains. The time is clearly opportune for a restatement of the law of 1879 in terms which will admit of no evasion. Magistrates should be legally bound to dispense with orders for costs where the fine is less than a crown, except in cases where they are prepared to give reasons for their imposition. Such reasons, duly recorded, would of course be subject to the scrutiny of the Home Office or to revision on appeal. Having thus re-enacted the law in explicit terms, Parliament should see that it is scrupulously obeyed. And it is not alone in relation to small fines that the question assumes urgent importance. Only the other day we paid five pounds in costs on behalf of a lad convicted of a motoring offence, who, but for our intervention, would have gone to gaol.

THAT PEN AGAIN!

Dear Mister da Bull, I writa da lett,
To tella you dat when
Da postaman knocka da door to-day,
He bringa da founata pen.
Now strika ma pink! I lika da pen,
I lika it muchad a lot.
And tinka—By gum! for eighteena pen
A jolla good bargain I got.
So tank you again, kind Mister da Bull,
I go to showa da wife,
And after da dis, I taka your pappe
Alla da rest of ma life.

"Antonio."

Note:—The Pen Coupon this Week on PAGE 2 of cover.

£10,000 IN PROFIT-SHARING BEAUTY GIFTS TO THE PUBLIC

Edwards' "Harlene" Company's Unique Offer in Celebration of the Opening of their New Premises.

Huge Inaugural Premium "BEAUTY GIFT" Distribution of everything for enhancing the Charm of Woman and the Smartness of Man.

Everyone Desiring Attractiveness and a Magnificent Head of Hair Can Immediately Secure a Complete Hair-Growing Outfit and Qualify for a Fully-equipped and Valuable Toilet Dressing Case Entirely Free of Charge.

All who can read are familiar with the gifts made from time to time to popularise the "Harlene Hair-drill" method of growing hair, but, extraordinary as these have been, they are totally eclipsed by the astounding offer announced to-day.

The enormous success of the "Hair-drill" Campaign having necessitated a great new building, the proprietors propose to celebrate this by distributing no less than £10,000 worth of Profit sharing Beauty Gifts, gifts which are veritable armouries of beauty, giving everybody the right to a splendidly attractive appearance.

From to-day onwards everyone suffering hair poverty will be able to secure the fullest benefit from the close, scientific study of hair conditions to be carried on at the great new centre, and, moreover, the discoverer of "Harlene" is determined to get in touch with every one of the millions who have aged in looks and grown slovenly in appearance through neglecting their hair.

"Harlene Hair-drill" has been proved to **stop falling hair; rid the scalp of all scurf, dandruff, and prevent irritation; banish partial, patchy, or total baldness; prevent the hair from breaking off or splitting at the ends; and grow luxuriant, glossy, abundant new hair at any age.**

THIS HANDSOME TOILET DRESSING CASE FREE.

If you have an abundance of hair and a clear skin, you undoubtedly possess two of the main factors of a good appearance. The great £10,000 Profit-sharing Gift will enable you to gain these without expense. Full particulars, along with a wonderful bijou beauty outfit, are offered in return for the coupon.

HOW TO SHARE IN THE £10,000 DISTRIBUTION.

Have you had your "Hair-drill" outfit yet? If not, send for it to-day, for in addition to securing everything necessary for bringing back your hair to all its former health and beauty, you will learn how you may participate in the great £10,000 profit-sharing beauty gift and obtain entirely Free of Charge a handsome, fully-equipped Toilet Dressing Case, the intrinsic worth of which is enormous to everyone desiring to make the very best of his or her appearance.

WHAT THIS GREAT BEAUTY GIFT MEANS TO YOU.

The purpose of the wonderful Toilet Dressing Case, offered as your free share of the £10,000 Gift, is to enable you to secure absolute perfection of skin and hair.

Every Toilet Case is handsomely designed and lined inside with silk. One side contains bottles of "Harlene," "Uzon," and "Astol," and you will be delighted with the opportunity the former affords to take a long course of "Hair-drill." "Uzon" Brilliantine will give the hair a lasting touch of elegant dressiness. "Astol," if you are grey or white, or turning grey, will bring back your hair's original natural colour completely and permanently.

The other side of the case contains a box of "Cremex" Shampoos, a pot of the new "Astino" Vanishing Cream, and a Tablet of "Astino" Complexion Soap. "Cremex" makes the hair grow in health and abundance under the finest possible conditions. For banishing wrinkles, blotches and pimples, and giving the skin the bloom of natural health-comfort, nothing equals "Astino" Vanishing Cream. "Astino" Soap is both a skin tonic and cleanser.

The Toilet Dressing Case will be found invaluable in the Boudoir or when travelling. It makes a lovely present for a bride, a handsome birthday gift for either lady or gentleman.

There are no conditions whatever governing the gift, except that you collect the coupons found packed with all Edwards' "Harlene" Co.'s preparations, or if you find no coupons, save the wrappers.

IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUOUS BENEFITS.

The benefits you derive from the amazing £10,000 Profit-sharing Beauty Gift scheme commence with your very first purchase, for all the preparations are designed to bring out every aspect of good appearance. And every purchase will bring nearer a Toilet Companion for which any of the West End Beauty Specialists would make a high charge.

USE THE COUPON TO-DAY FOR A FIVE-FOLD BEAUTY GIFT.

In return for the Coupon below and 3d. in stamps for postage, Edwards' "Harlene" Co., 20-26, Lamb's Conduit Street, London, W.C., will send:—

(1) A Trial bottle of "Harlene" for growing beautiful hair.
(2) A packet of "Cremex" Shampoo Powder for ridding your scalp of scurf, dandruff, and irritation, and for assisting the beneficial effects of "Hair-drill."
(3) The "Hair Drill" Manual of directions, showing how 2 minutes' exercise daily will grow hair in abundance and keep it permanently free from Baldness.
(4) A supply of "Astino" Vanishing Cream, the use of which frees the skin from blemishes and gives it the bloom of health,
AND
(5) Full particulars of the great £10,000 Profit-sharing Celebration Scheme.

Your acceptance of this valuable gift places you under no obligation whatever. To avoid delay, however, you should send in your application to-day.

"Harlene" is sold in 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. bottles, "Cremex" in 1s. boxes of 7 powders single 2d. each), and "Astino" Cream in 1s. and 2s. 6d. pots, by all Chemists, or direct, post free on remittance. Foreign postage extra. Cheques and P.O.'s should be crossed. In case of difficulty, refuse anything "just as good," and send direct.

GREAT PREMIUM GIFT COUPON.

Fill in and post to Edwards' "Harlene" Co., 20-26, Lamb's Conduit Street, London, W.C.

It will bring you a five-fold Beauty Gift, including full particulars of the great £10,000 Beauty Gift Distribution. Enclose 3d. stamps for postage to any address in the world (Foreign Stamps accepted).

Name .....

Address .....

J.B., 9-5-14. .....

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.

[On this page every week we publish particulars of human derelicts whose cases, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

CCCXXII.—SUNSHINE AND SHADOW.

Here is a pathetic and distressing picture we witnessed last week. The bright sun penetrated through a calico blind into a room devoid of furniture. A coffin stood on a couple of trestles. It contained the mortal remains of the breadwinner for a family of six, the eldest of whom is only 17. Beside the body was the widow. She was not weeping—she had got past that. Seated on a box, with her eyes fixed on the coffin, she was thinking—and such thoughts! The dead man, we learned, was a butcher, aged 44. For the past few years he had been in failing health, and two days before last Christmas he had to give up work altogether. At that time they had a decent little home. The panel doctor found him to be in a rapid consumption, and at once notified the case to the authorities, for sanatorium treatment. A few days later a Health Representative called and left a few leaflets on "How to treat Consumption"—and there the matter rested until the patient died, the excuse being lack of sanatorium accommodation! During the period of December until the poor fellow's death, everything saleable and pawnable in the house was disposed of for food. The Insurance allowance was a help, but it was insufficient. No wonder the woman was dazed. She had not a penny in the world. It is true she was to receive £4 life insurance money, but that would scarcely cover the funeral expenses. In a few weeks she would give birth to another child. We have already stated there are six—the eldest is a boy of 17, earning 13s. a week, and there is a girl, earning 3s. and her food. The remainder are all attending school. Before leaving the poor woman we handed her sufficient to tide over immediate wants. Her one wish is not to be separated from her children. She feels sure that with a little help she can weather the storm. Will our readers give it to her?

CCCXXIII.—A CUP-TIE TRAGEDY.

An ex-Marine—married, with three children—has every reason to remember the Cup-Tie Final between Burnley and Liverpool. The poor fellow is unable to get regular employment—he was invalided from the service owing to defective eyesight, and has been endeavouring to obtain a livelihood in the best way he can. A week prior to the Crystal Palace match he conceived the idea of laying out his capital in a quantity of silk, to make up into ties for sale to the football enthusiasts. He decided upon seeking his customers among the Burnley supporters, and purchased a *Daily News and Leader* Football Annual for the current year, in which he found the Club's colours given as "green and white." He managed to find the money to buy silk of the designated hues to the value of £3, and had it made up into emblems. On the great day he rose early and met trains coming in from the North—but when he offered the excursionists his wares he was laughed at, and told that the Burnley colours were claret, light blue and white! Of course his stock was quite unsaleable. In despair, he appealed to the *Daily News*, pointing out the crushing loss which he had incurred owing to their blunder, but the only satisfaction he could get was a letter which stated:—

> The mistake in the "Annual" occurred through Burnley changing their colours a year or two ago, and this change being overlooked. We are sorry to hear of the difficulty you are in, but you will understand, I think, on careful consideration, that we cannot be held responsible for it in any way.

Cold comfort, surely! We appeal to our readers to replace the poor man's loss—the great goody-good journalists evidently feel little *practical* compassion for the victim of their carelessness, however much they may remember him in their prayers! Any surplus will be utilised for the benefit of his wife and children.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We have received the following, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXC.—F. R. H. S., 21s.
CCC.—C. H. H., (Posadas), 16s.
CCCXI.—F. P. L. (Glamorgan), 5s.
CCCXII.—C. G., £1.
CCCXIII.—A. K., 10s.; A. R. C., parcel; C. G., £1.
CCCXIV.—J. D. F., 1s.; R. F., 2s. 6d.; J. R., 1s.; "Alfred," 1s. 6d.; E. A. C., 2s. 6d.; "Bad Luck," 2s. 6d.
CCCXV.—"Dog-Rock," £1; S. M. B., parcel.
CCCXVI.—A., £1.
CCCXVII.—J. H. W., 1s.; "2s. 6d. Winner in Bullets Competition," 1s.; R. C. F., 1s.; "A Lady Sent It," 5s.; R. B. M., 2s. 6d.; G. A., 6d.; "Elstow," 1s.; J. D. F., 1s.; "Mrs. Jim," 5s.; J. I., 7s. 6d.; "United States," 2s. 6d.; "Little Johnnie," 8s.; U. V. F., 1s.; A. L., 1s.; "Solomon Moses," 10s.; "First Win," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. H., parcel; "Brave Young 'un," 2s. 6d.; "Prize Winner No. 81," 1s.; R. S. G., 1s. 9d.; "For a Good Boy," 4s.; T. W. K., 5s.; "In Sympathy," 1s.; A., £2.
CCCXVIII.—F. B., 2s. 6d.; G. L., Jnr., 1s.; W. L., 2s.; J. R., 2s.; "Mrs. Jim," 5s.; J. I., 2s. 6d.; M. M., 1s.; L. W., 11s.; "Mrs. C. & May," 2s. 6d.; R. S. G., 1s. 9d.; "In Sympathy," 1s.
CCCXIX.—"Two Chums," 2s.; "Solomon Moses," 10s.; "Sturton," 1s.; Mr. W., 1s.; Mr. W. G. A. D., 1s.
CCCXX.—"Hollins Cross," 5s.; A., £2.
CCCXXI.—"A Tallyman," 5s.; E. M. H., 3d.; "Pseudo," 3s. 6d.; P. S. P., 2s. 6d.; "Hollins Cross," 5s.; "A. D., and a Few of his Fellow Workmen," 8s.; R. J. L., 10s.; T. S., 6d.; "Little Johnnie," 8s.; Mrs. T. T., 1s. 6d.; A., £2.

We have this week divided £10 from the John Bull Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund between "Human Documents" CCCXIX and CCCXX; £10 from the John Bull Football Cup Sweepstake Charity Fund between "Human Documents" CCCXXI and CCCXII; and £10 from the John Bull Grand National Sweepstake Charity Fund between "Human Documents" CCCVII and CCCXVIII.

Mr. George Eaton, the winner of the First Prize in our 80th "Bullets" Competition, has sent us £5, which we have divided between "Human Documents" CCCXX and CCCXXI.

COLLECTING BOXES.

LONDON.—Messrs. Collinson and Osgood, "Mason's Arms," Harrow Rd., 1s. 5d.; Mr. G. Henwood, 61, Goodge St., Tottenham Court Rd., 1s. 3d.; Mr. W. M. Pantaney, "The Alma," 173, Westbourne Grove, 1s. 2d.; Mr. B. Levett, "The Cobden," Berger Rd., Homerton, 14s.; Mr. W. Blenzberg, "Prince of Wales," Lee Bridge Rd., Clapton, 3s.; Mr. A. C. Trout, 3, Highgate Hill, 1s. 1d.; Mr. H. Morgan, "The Blackstock," Morgan's Corner, Finsbury Park, 5s. 1d.; Mr. A. C. Heath, "The Atlas," Seagrave Rd., Fulham, 1s. 1d.; Mr. A. Heys, "Denbigh Arms," Denbigh Place, 3s. 5½d.; Mr C. McCarthy, Messrs. Garcia Jacobs and Co., Langley St., Covent Garden, 18s.; Mr. H. Parr, "Coach and Horses," Matthias Rd., 1s.; Mr. F. L. Williams, 50, Nimrod Rd., Streatham, 2s. 5d.; Mr. T. W. Porter, 714, Holloway Rd., 1s. 3d.
WOLVERHAMPTON.—Mr. A. E. Coleman, "Red Lion," Bilston Rd., 4s. 1d.
ABERCARN.—Mr. T. W. White, 49, High St., 1s.
MIDDLESBROUGH.—Miss A. E. Newsham, 43, Tennyson St., 1s.
CARDIFF.—Mr. W. N. Wood, Mercantile Stores, Ltd., Clarence Rd., 9s. 8½.

Total, £3 9s. 5½d., of which we have allocated £1 to CCCXVII, £1 to CCCXVIII, £1 to CCCXIX, and 9s. 5½d. to CCCXX.

THE TRUMP FUND.

We have this week the pleasure of acknowledging the following further subscriptions for the benefit of poor Mr. Trump:—

Archdeacon Wilberforce (Chaplain of the House of Commons)	...	£1
Mr. Patrick Rose-Innes, K.C.,	...	£1 1s.
C. G.		£1
A. J. B...		1s.
"Hollins Cross,"		10s.

We have to acknowledge £3 from "A.," on behalf of the poor woman referred to in our issue of April 19th, under the heading of "Not Strained."

£1,000 for a "Bullet"—Great Holiday Offer. See page 38.

THE GRAVES 45/- SUIT. MADE EXACTLY TO YOUR MEASURES

The Graves 45/- Suit lifts its wearer above his fellows and endows him with an appearance altogether smarter and more gentlemanly than the man with clothes of ordinary make. The quality of the material in the Graves Suit is in keeping with its handsome style, and the excellent workmanship and finish are remarkable examples of high-grade tailoring at a strictly moderate price.

WRITE FOR PATTERNS. A post card sent to-day will bring you per return the finest selection of cloth samples ever submitted at the price, all cut from the actual cloth lengths now being made up for orders for the Graves 37/6 and 45/- Suits. Once you have the patterns in your hands you will be able to judge of the excellence of the materials we are using, the undoubted superiority of the designs, and the tastefulness of the shades and colourings. This comprehensive selection of cloths includes a splendid variety of **Tweeds, Cheviots, Worsted Serges, Black & Blue Vicunas,** and a remarkably fine range of genuine hard-wearing **Yorkshire Suitings.** Whether you entrust us with your order or not, you should at least become acquainted with the dependable values we are offering. **Say if Light or Dark Patterns are Desired.**

IN YOUR OWN INTEREST you should look into this unusual clothing proposal immediately. When you come to examine the cloth samples which we will send you post free on receipt of a postcard, you will be struck by the reliable quality, the fashionable shades, and the superiority of the designs. Graves Suits are for men of all ages, so if you have preferences and ideas of your own as to how you would like your suit making, simply tell us when sending your order, and your wishes will have our most careful attention. Our terms of business enable you to have your Suit and wear it whilst paying for it, and the conditions governing every transaction positively guarantee you against disappointment or loss. Unless you are entirely satisfied with the Suit after full examination in your own home, we will refund the whole of the money.

GRAVES SUITS are for Men who appreciate Good Tailoring at a strictly moderate price, and Graves Easy Terms enable them to dress smartly and well on a limited outlay without feeling it an effort.

TERMS Our terms of business enable you to have your Suit whilst paying for it. For 7/- NOW, we Deliver the Suit to approved orders exactly to measure, carriage paid to destination, and if you are entirely satisfied with Fit, Style, Quality and Value, the balance to be completed in Five Monthly Payments of 7/- and one of 3/- making 45/- in all. If you are in any way disappointed with the Suit, return it to us within seven days and we will immediately refund every penny you have paid.

Wherever you live, our Keen Prices and Easy Terms are for YOU.

J.G. GRAVES Ltd.
SHEFFIELD.

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

[This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.]

To the Right Hon. C. E. Hobhouse, P.C., Postmaster-General.

Dear Hobbie,—Since your latest promotion from "maid of all work to the Government," to your present position as First Postman to his Majesty, you have lost no time in making it clear that, as in the case of each of your previous offices, you cannot be taught anything.

At the recent annual meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce, the state of the metropolitan telephone service was discussed at some length, and there was a remarkable consensus of opinion as to its manifold shortcomings. Upon sound authority its condition was said to be "extremely bad," while with equal force it was asserted that it had "deteriorated considerably" since its transfer to Post Office control. These statements were made by persons well qualified to speak on behalf of the business community, but you brush them aside, with the official assurance that the system is working well.

Many of your men ask for more money; you offer them "morality" instead—and prate about the danger of corrupting their minds by allowing sweepstake circulars to pass through their hands!

Your Department is making a big loss in the telegram branch; you propose to denude it of the profitable business of the sporting correspondence, grandiloquently describing all such literature as "rascality"—whereas, compared with your own conduct in taking thousands of pounds from the Exchequer in connection with the sinecure of the "Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster," the worst features of it stand out in favourable light; whilst you further emphasise the dishonesty of your Department by promising "telephone meters" to prevent overcharge for calls.

I shall really have to come down to East Bristol again. Gave you a nasty shock last time, didn't we? Why not veto the circulars of the Business Government League?

John Bull.

To Joseph Martin, Esq., K.C., M.P., House of Commons.

Dear Joe,—I learn that you have at length been "definitely repudiated" by the Radical wirepullers in East St. Pancras, and that your excommunication has been duly ratified by the Chief Liberal Whip. Henceforth at your peril you will profess and call yourself a Liberal. This is no place for a catalogue of your manifold offences, but you may imagine with what horror I learn that you have been "conspicuous in putting undesirable questions to Ministers," while at meetings in your constituency you have "criticised them in turn." In these circumstances you ought, of course, to abase yourself in the sight of men, girding your manly form with sackcloth and bearing ashes upon your humbled head. Instead of which you propose to await the dissolution of Parliament, and then, as an "Independent Democrat," to challenge all comers to open fight. Wherefore, good luck to you and more power to your arm!

John Bull.

To Dr. Shute and Dr. Sells, Northfleet.

My Dear Doctors,—Aren't you ashamed of yourselves? Or don't you appreciate the call of "moral obligation"? Coroner and jury have condemned you for not attending little two-year-old Lane who lay dying. A chemist, my dear Dr. Shute, would have sold medicine without attendance, and, my dear Dr. Sells, bed is very nice (I trust you always go to bed early), but the remembrance of a good deed done well is nicer. If "Peculiar People" are sent to prison for not getting medical attendance for their dying children, peculiar doctors may have to go there, too, for not attending when called. The law may not always compel you to go to this or that case, but there are occasionally side issues of a legally punitive character. To save the time of the poor, however, perhaps you would placard on your motor-cars and inscribe on your brazen plates: "I admit no moral obligation to attend dying children of the poor." Then people will know.

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. T. McKinnon Wood, P.C., Secretary of State for Scotland.

Sir,—The re-opening of the case of Oscar Slater has aroused wide public interest, and I am bound to think that your order for the holding of the preliminary inquiry *in camera* was a trifle ill-advised. There were doubtless reasons, which seemed good to you, for the closing of the doors, but in a matter of such tragic import public policy should have been the supreme consideration. In any case, the matter can hardly be permitted to remain where it stands, and I venture to hope that future investigations may be conducted in the full light of day. There must be a thorough public inquiry, conducted with judicial forms, and the tribunal to which the task is entrusted must be one to inspire general confidence. Only so can the misgivings of honest citizens be allayed. Meanwhile, let us have the Report—for what it is worth.

John Bull.

To Dr. J. A. M'Clymont, Convener of the Church of Scotland Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains, Edinburgh.

Dear Dr. Convener,—The curious document which you have signed and circulated "as having an important bearing on the reputation and prosperity of the Territorial force" is characteristic of the reckless Sabbatarianism of the unco guid. From this document it appears that Territorials can only utilise Sunday for travelling to camp, opening canteens, holding staff rides, target practices and instruction classes for officers and men at the cost of religious, moral and material deterioration. One would imagine, Doctor dear, that a military force could be organised to the advantage of the country only on the principles of a wee free Sunday-school, and that the sole legitimate or profitable way for Territorials in training to spend their Sundays is to listen to interminable exhortations on the part of regimental chaplains. How these extraordinary ideas are to be applied in a state of war I cannot conceive; I can only assume that, in case the inhabitants of Edinburgh, for instance, were one Sunday morning aroused by the clatter of German sabres at their doors at a time when they were expecting the milk, you, good sir, would invite the commander of the Territorial defence forces to sound the alarm, not to call them to resist the sauerkrauts, but to listen to one of your impressive sermons on the sanctity of the Sawbath and the blessings of the pump.

John Bull.

To the Editor of the "Bystander."

Dear Brother,—I have such a true regard for you that it is with a sense of deep regret that I take you to task for your references to the recent Football Cup match at the dear old Crystal Palace. Your suggestion that, even better than the closing of public-houses on the Cup Final night, would be "to forbid the playing of this match within a hundred miles of the metropolis," and further that if the King "had seen the type of human creature who is brought into light by Association football, his manners and customs, he might wonder whether this is a game which deserves his high patronage," is really not worthy of you. Come with me next Bank holiday to Hampstead Heath—or up West any evening you care to name—and I will show you a few "types of human creature, their manners and customs," which will make you wish to apologise to the honest lads of Lancashire.

John Bull.

To the Rev. James Marchant, National Council of Public Morals.

Moral Sir,—Desiring, I suppose, to go one better than your Hampstead brother, whose vigilance extends no further than his native Heath, you are shortly to embark upon a tour of Moral Inspection, in which you will take the world for your parish. In your extensive peregrinations it is doubtless hoped that you may discover much novel naughtiness, while extending and improving your acquaintance with familiar sins. Visiting Australasia, you may perhaps observe the amiable habits of such aborigines as you can find, and I am quite sure that anything of a peculiarly spicy nature will be carefully noted for future reference. I see you are to go first to America, and I would remind you that the average Yankee is apt to get "riled considerable" when strangers stick their noses into his morals—but that, of course, is your affair. I shall await your report with bated breath. Meanwhile, any specially juicy tit-bits should be cabled to the Rev. F. B. Meyer.

John Bull.

6,123 "Bullets" Prizes This Week, Value Over £2,500.

MASKS AND FACES.

"Making-up" for the "Irish Transformation Scene."

When the Actors leave the stage
And discard their masks of rage,
Then realities begin
And "The wearing of the 'grin.'"

JOHN BULL'S VARIETY TURNS.

THE PEACEMAKERS' REHEARSAL.
A SKETCH.

Characters :—

MR. ASQUITH	*played by*	MR. HERBERT HENRY.
MR. BONAR LAW	,,	MR. ALEXANDER.
MR. BALFOUR	,,	MR. ARTHUR JAMES.
MR. CHURCHILL	,,	MR. WINSTON SPENCER.
SIR EDWARD CARSON	,,	MR. KAY SEE
MR. CHAMBERLAIN	,,	MR. AUSTEN.

SCENE: *Room in the House of Commons. Early Morning.*

BONAR LAW: Before we proceed to a discussion of a pacific solution of the Ulster question (which, of course, we shall find), it is due to us all, as Party politicians, to indulge in a little harmless orgie of mutual recrimination and abuse. Apart from the pleasure which, I am sure, this will afford us all, it is a duty we owe to our supporters and the public press. If we can only manage to work up a bit of a row between ourselves, and give the papers a chance to print a few good scare lines, our subsequent agreement will come as rather less of a disappointment to the rank and file of both our Parties. I think you had better start the ball rolling, Chamberlain.

CHAMBERLAIN: Do you mean you want me to propose the Censure Resolution in your place?

BONAR LAW: Yes; I think my style of oratory will suit the middle of the debate better than the beginning.

CHAMBERLAIN: Well, I'll do it to oblige you, if it is understood that I am to have the reversion of the leadership. But, by the way, Asquith, of course you understand that I shall have to do some pretty plain speaking. I don't say that I shall go so far as to call you a liar in set terms but it will probably be necessary for me to charge you and the Cabinet with falsehood and criminal concealment of vital facts, and all that sort of thing. You don't mind?

ASQUITH: Not a bit, my boy! Call me what you like. I shall understand. But you must promise not to feel hurt by anything I say in reply. The harder you hit, the harder I shall hit back. It ought to make a very effective scene, don t you think?

BALFOUR: If it is artistically done, yes. Now, for my part, I shall try to avoid vulgar personalities. It will be just as well for one on our side to strike the higher note, and that had better come towards the end of the debate. So I shall speak on the second day, if you don t mind. I shall only trouble to tickle the ears of the groundlings once, and that is when I shall make a rather nasty allusion to Churchill. You don't mind, my boy?

CHURCHILL: Not a bit, so long as it isn't a reference to my changing over from your side. I'm getting a bit fed up with *that*.

BALFOUR: It will be something a little more artistic than that. I thought of it when I was playing tennis the other evening. But to enable me to work it off, I shall want you to suggest that our bringing forward this Censure Resolution is like criminals bringing a vote of censure against the police.

BONAR LAW: You ll have a job to counter that, won't you, Arthur?

BALFOUR: Not a bit. I shall retort by calling Churchill an *agent provocateur*—a character despised equally by the criminal and the police.

CHURCHILL: I say, that's a bit thick, isn't it?

ASQUITH (*whispering*): You can manage that all right. You have to turn pale, if you can, call it a shocking charge to make, and demand proof. That ll put Balfour in a corner.

BALFOUR: I say, no whispering. Play the game!

CARSON: Well, *I* shall strike the conciliatory note this time. Coming from me, after I have accepted responsibility for the gun-running, it will be all the more impressive.

ASQUITH: A good idea. That's arranged then. We will open with fire and fury, and each of us finish up with a hint of peace and settlement. If we play our parts well, it ought to be very effective. The only thing that troubles me is, What about Redmond?

ALL: We shall have to see him.

[EXEUNT OMNES.]

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"John Bull."

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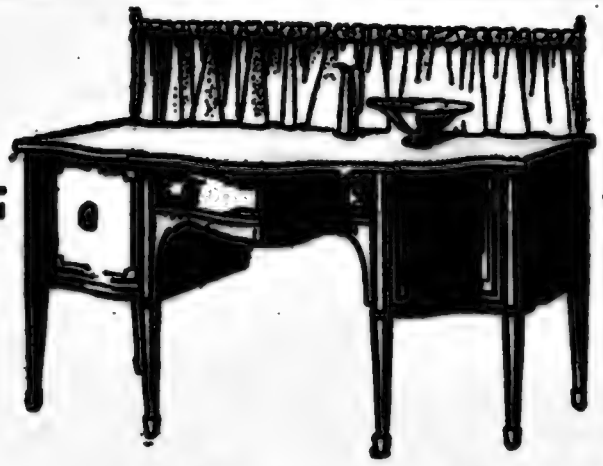

This illustration shows the magnificent sideboard, £10 10s. 0d., offered as first prize in the competition.

"East, West, 'Midland's' Best"

Winning Title in Midland Furnishing Co.'s Competition.

Mr. G. J. Orange's Decision.
Full List of Prize-winners.

WE publish to-day the award of the prizes for the seven best titles for the poem printed in "John Bull" on April 4th. The enormous number of titles sent in from all parts of the country has made the work of selection very difficult—although it testifies to the widespread appreciation of "Midland" Furniture and "Midland" Methods of business.

IN printing the poem six weeks ago we asked readers to study it carefully, to notice the special advantages of going to the "Midland," and then pick out one or two strong points which would make a good title. It is instructive to note that the greater part of the competitors have summed up *all* the points and then come to almost the same conclusion as Mr. C. E. Payne, the sender of the winning title, that "East, West, 'Midland's' Best."

OTHERS have made up titles from single points—the value of "Midland" furniture, the Ideal Terms, free life and fire insurance, and various other special advantages of dealing with the "Midland"—but on the whole none was quite so good as that sent in by Mr. Payne, and the first prize is therefore awarded to him. A complete list of prize-winners is printed below:—

Write for the Free Book of Furniture.

This splendidly illustrated book is the most complete and inclusive volume of its kind ever issued. It is indispensable both as a book of reference for those interested in Furniture, and as a guide for those about to furnish. Containing over 1,000 photographs, actually taken in the Midland Salons, it gives an excellent idea of the infinite choice and value offered by "London's Leading Furnishers." Send a postcard with your order *to-day*.

The Winning Title—

"*East, West, 'Midland's' Best.*"

Sent by **C. E. PAYNE**, 100, Underdown Road, Southwick, Brighton.

Winners of six extra prizes, value one guinea.

I. Jackson, 7, Windsor Road, Monkseaton.
B. Henderson, 4, Villas on Heath, Vale of Health, Hampstead, N.W.
L. Bewster, 224, Beverley Road, Hull.
Arthur W. Owen, 36, Charlotte Street, W.
W. Amison, 24, Rockliffe Road, Bath.
Robt. J. Bullock, "Marazion," Kingshill Road, Swindon, Wilts.

Midland
Furnishing Company, Ltd.,
15-23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Governing Director: **Mr. George Michael,** *who has been associated with the firm for 40 years.*

PROUD SISTER: "Twick boys! Willy says that if you wants to see him smoke a thigar like a man, you've got to hurry."

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

GUN RUNNING.

SMALL BOY: Wot's "gun runnin'" mean, dad?

DAD: W'y, gittin' guns into a country agin the lore, like wot the Orangemen 'ave jest done.

SMALL BOY: Wot do Orangemen want guns for, dad?

DAD: W'y, ter defend theirselves, o' corse.

SMALL BOY: Wot, w'en somebody tries to steal their oranges?

DAD: Nah, nah. You don' unnerstand. Orangemen is *H*ulstermen, reely.

SMALL BOY: W y are they called Ulstermen, dad? Do they wear them?

DAD: Nah, nah! Corse they don't. *H*ulster's the name of the plice w'ere they live, see?

SMALL BOY: Oh! (*after a thoughtful pause*). Wot do they want guns to defend themselves for if they don't sell oranges, dad?

DAD (*impatiently*): I tell yer oranges ain't got nuthink ter do wiv it. They're jest *called* Orangemen, that's orl. *H*ulstermen's the proper nime for 'em, reely, 'cos they lives in *H*ulster, as I toljer jest nar.

SMALL BOY: Is Ulster in Africa, dad?

DAD: Nah, nah! It's in Ireland. Wot majer fink it wos in *H*africa, eh?

SMALL BOY: 'Cos you sed they 'ad guns to defend theirselves. P'r'aps there's lions an' tigers there? Is there, dad?

DAD: Nah, nah! Corse there ain't. They got the guns to defend theirselves agin 'Ome Rule.

SMALL BOY: Wot's that, dad?

DAD: W'y, bein' their own boss, like.

SMALL BOY: Don't they want to be their own boss, dad?

DAD: No, under 'Ome Rule, they don't.

SMALL BOY: W'y don't they?

DAD: 'Cos they wouldn't be—not under 'Ome Rule.

SMALL BOY: But you sed 'Ome Rule meant bein' their own boss.

DAD: You don' unnerstan'. You ain't old enuff yet.

SMALL BOY: Shall I understand w'en I'm as old as you, dad?

DAD: Yuss; you'll know *h*everythink then, if you're a goo' boy.

SMALL BOY: Wos you good w'en you wos a boy, dad?

DAD: I reckon so—good enuff.

SMALL BOY: Then I s'pose you know everything, dad? I 'card mother tell Mrs. 'Iggins you think you do.

DAD: Oh, she did, did she?

SMALL BOY: Yes; an' she sed you could 'ave bin your own boss years ago if you'd only 'ad the gump. Wot is gump, dad—'Ome Rule?

DAD: Look 'ere, you'll make yerself tired if you tork ser much. Look art o' the winder, there's a goo' boy.

SMALL BOY (*after short silence*): Dad.

DAD: Wot's it nar?

SMALL BOY: Will the Ulstermen shoot with their guns?

DAD: If they 'ave cause to.

SMALL BOY: Wot will they shoot, dad?

DAD: W'y, the soljers, o' corse.

SMALL BOY: W'y?

DAD: I tol' jer didn' I? Ter defend theirselves.

SMALL BOY: Will the soljers shoot at them then?

DAD: I s'pose so—if they're ordered to.

SMALL BOY: Who'll order them to, dad?

DAD: W'y their orficers, o' course.

SMALL BOY: W'y will the orficers order the soljers to shoot the Ulstermen?

DAD: 'Cos they'll be told to.

SMALL BOY: Who'll tell them to, dad?

DAD: You won't unnerstan' if I tell yer.

SMALL BOY: Do you always 'ave to do wot orficers tell you, dad?

DAD: You're s'posed to.

SMALL BOY: But *you* don't, do you dad?

DAD: Eh? Wotjer mean?

SMALL BOY: Mother told Mrs. 'Iggins you wouldn't 'ave got seven days' if you'd only moved on w'en the orficer told you to. W'y didn't you, dad?

DAD (*flushing, and looking round guiltily*): Will you 'old yer noise? I'll warm yer if yer don't sit quiet fur a bit.

(*Strained silence to next station*).

Note:—The Pen Coupon This Week on PAGE 2 of cover.

£1,000 "BULLET" WEEK

Competitors who want to WIN should study this week's

FINDON'S WEEKLY

Competitors' Journal,

which deals fully with "JOHN BULL'S" £1,000 "BULLET Competition," giving help, hints, and advice on what NOT to do, as well as what should be done.

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Always smoke Taddy's Tobacco —the finest tobacco is the best blend.

MAPPIN AND WEBB.

The fifth annual general meeting of Mappin and Webb (Ltd.) was held on Thursday last at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. W. J. Mappin (the chairman) presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report the chairman said while the turnover at home and abroad had exceeded that of any previous year, the increase in the volume of business had been handled with very little increase in the working expenses. The money raised by the issue of a further 150,000 Cumulative Pref. shares had been utilised chiefly in Canada and in the acquisition of 999 years' leases of their Oxford Street property.

Mr. Henry Portlock, in seconding the motion, said the balance-sheet proved that the rapid advance of the preceding four years had been the result not of fortuitous circumstances but of sound development and enterprise.

It might interest them if he were to call their attention to a few figures showing the great advance since 1909. With the appropriations recommended they would have a general reserve of £46,000, a special reserve of £5,000, a carry forward of £16,843, a leasehold redemption fund of £14,659, and a reduction in the goodwill of £10,000. Those items totalled £92,502, or over 15 per cent. of the issued share capital.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and a final dividend at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum was declared, making 10 per cent. for the year.

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Each package contains full and simple directions, also recent large batch of 75 grateful and unsolicited testimonials and Dr. Fromberg's FREE BOOK on Rheumatism and all above diseases.

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GRATEFUL LETTERS DAILY.

Jollier's Rheumatism, Mr. Avissam.
15th April, 1914.

DEAR SIRS,—I am writing to inform you how very grateful I am for the Joint Preparation I have been using. It has done me a great deal of good.

Last August my wife had something come in her knee, it was most painful for some time. I saw for the first time Joint Preparation advertised. I sent for a 1s. Sample Box. Before my wife used half of it the pain left her knee. She has been free since. I have very severe attacks of Sciatica. I was laid up nearly five months last year. I was a Llanlriadod Wells the whole of April, 1913, taking the Baths and Waters. The Sciatica came on again the early part of this year. I at once sent for a 4s. 6d. Jar of your Preparation. I have stuck to it. I am pleased to say that I can get about well. It is the best thing that I ever had for Sciatica. I have recommended it to a good number of my friends. Any case of ordinary Rheumatism the Preparation will move in a night. My first attack of Sciatica lasted seven months, so you can see I have had attacks. Your Joint Preparation is a wonderful thing.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Jos. H. Yarnold (Retired Police Officer).

To readers abroad this Sample Offer is open for 1s. post free, and the Midland Drug Co. will accept unworn, clean, unused, and perfect postage stamps of their country to the value of 1s. Extra postage (on jars only) to readers abroad, as follows: 2s. 9d. jars, 9d.: 4s. 6d. jars, 1s.: 11s. jars, 2s.

LAYS OF A LONELY LONDONER.

By Bill the 'Busman.

THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER.

[With apologies to the author of "The British Grenadier."]

Some talk of Bonar-party and some of Bonar Law,
And some about Bill Adams with all his mighty jaw;
But of all the world's brave heroes, there are none that can compare
In a town-row—row—row—row—row
With the Ulster Volunteer!

Some talk of Londonderry and some about the Boyne,
Of Redmond and his creatures with all their Yankee coin;
But of all the whole-souled patriots the one beyond compare
For a row—row—row—row—row—row
Is the Ulster Volunteer.

He began with wooden cannon and dummy rifles, too,
He signed the Solemn Covenant to fight till all is blue;
He drilled by night like anything to make the neighbours stare,
With a vow—vow—vow—vow—vow—vow
By the Ulster Volunteer.

Well, now he's got to business—he's been importing arms,
And Downing Street is ringing with sounds of war's alarms;
Oh, they brought the *coup* off wonderful, and Winston tore his hair
At the pow—wow—wow—wow—wow—wow
Re the Ulster Volunteer.

He idolises Carson, and Captain Craig comes next
Which makes the noble marquis look most supremely vexed;
And F. E. Smith's the galloper—behold him on his mare!
But how—how—how—how—is he
An Ulster Volunteer?

He's going to march on Dublin when he begins to walk,
And on the way, be jabers! he's going to settle Cork!
Oh, it's nice to see him marching with military air,
And a row—row—row—like fireworks
From the Ulster Volunteer!

He thinks himself in earnest with his chest expanded large,
And all the Irish nation is waiting for the charge;
But he's going to keep it waiting and fulminate hot air
With a row—row—row—row—row—row
From the Ulster Volunteer.

Oh, he is the finest warrior that ever yet was seen,
Just mark his deeds of daring—at eve in his canteen;
So let us raise our glasses, as fizzles out the flare,
With the row—row—row—row—row—row
Of the Ulster Volunteer!

IT ALL DEPENDS.

By L. B.-P.

The police-court reporter often smiles when some denizen of the slums is summoned for "using obscene language." It generally arises out of a homely discussion with the wife, or the neighbours. An officer who has found business slack during the day hears Bill Brown shout a sanguinary expression that was quite commonly used in the drawing-room of the English gentleman in the good old times. But Bill does not live in the good old times, so he is served with a summons and presents himself before the magistrate.

The officer, giving evidence of the "obscene language," does not explain that it was an expression which could not possibly "cause annoyance to the inhabitants," who, as he well knows, all use it, and conviction follows as a matter of course.

"The use of such foul expressions must be sternly discouraged," says the magistrate; "you will have to pay a fine of half-a-crown, with half-a-crown costs, or in default go to prison for four days with hard labour."

Of course, the fine is paid—and the victim mentally addresses the forbidden remark to his Worship as he pays out the cash. The magistrate returns home and encounters his wife, who asks him to take her to a theatre.

"Yes, my dear, we will go to see 'Pygmalion.' I understand some of the language is rather daring," he says—and they go.

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GIVES THE EASIEST SHAVE.

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Of all Chemists & Hairdressers.

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"How glorious, how grand TIZ makes tired, swollen, sore, perspiring feet feel."

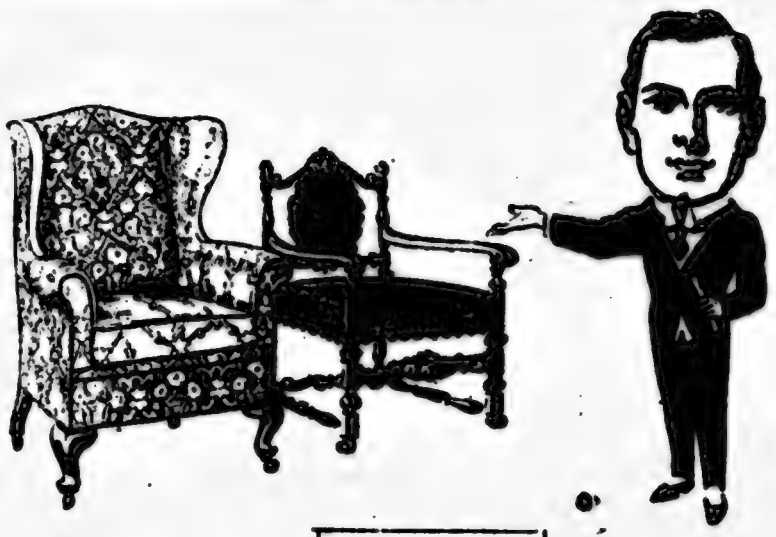
"Just couldn't wait to take my hat off!"

Just take your shoes off and then put those weary, shoe-crinkled, aching, burning, corn-pestered, bunion-tortured feet of yours in a TIZ bath. Your toes will wiggle with joy; they'll look up at you and almost talk and then they'll take another dive in that TIZ bath.

When your feet feel like lumps of lead—all tired out—just try TIZ. It's grand—it's glorious.

There's nothing like TIZ. It's the only remedy that draws out all the poisonous exudations which puff up your feet and cause foot torture.

Get a 1/6 box of TIZ at any chemists or stores—don't wait. Ah! how glad your feet get. You can wear shoes a size smaller if you desire.



—The Furniture and the Firm that you are looking for

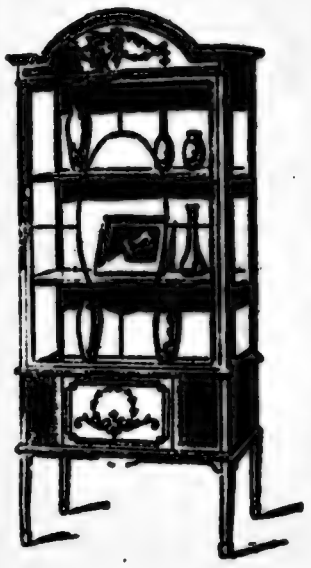
There is only one firm to suit both your purse and your preference for really good quality—a firm that others have proved from actual experience really does make furnishing easy—that firm is the HACKNEY.

Copy of large Catalogue Free on request.

Value and all that it means is what you find at the Hackney Salons. Furniture without blemish in workmanship or material and made as much for your children's children as for you—and to be bought without all the petty annoyances and extra ultimate cost of the usual 'Hire System' adopted by others.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS							
Worth	Per Month			Worth	Per Month		
£10	£2	6	0	£100	£2	5	0
20	0	11	0	200	4	10	0
30	0	17	0	500	11	5	0
40	1	5	0	800	11	5	0
50	1	8	0	1000	22	10	0

We give you credit without extra charge; we insure the Furniture against Fire free; and give every customer a Free Life Insurance Policy, whereby should the hirer die the Furniture at once becomes the property of the widow or children without further payment. **Should you prefer to pay cash we allow an additional discount of 10 per cent.**



Ten Branches in all.

Inlaid Mahogany Sheraton Style China Cabinet beautifully finished and lined.

£2 15s. 0d.

That you may visit us without expense we will pay your fares to our Showrooms should your orders amount to £20 or over. At the same time post orders will receive the careful attention of a special Department, and goods will be safely packed and delivered free to any required address.

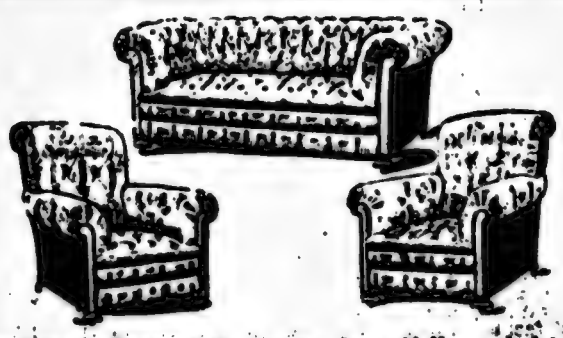
Buffet Sideboard in Oak or Mahogany, fitted with convex mirror at back, two cupboards and two drawers.

£6 10s. 0d.

A beautifully designed 4ft. Fumed Oak Bedroom Suite with Quartered Fronts. Comprising 4ft. Robe, Dressing Table fitted with circular wing mirror twisted legs and four large drawers, washstand with marble top and back, and two rush-seated chairs.

A very fine value £13 13s. 0d.

A Free Tea Room, Writing Room and Lounge, open to all visitors at our Oxford Street Salons.



Three-piece Chesterfield Suite, beautifully upholstered, oversprung, easy, and extremely comfortable and luxurious. Covered in superior art tapestry.

£7 15s. 0d. only.

Originators of the Deferred Payment System

HACKNEY FURNISHING Co. Ltd.

West End Showrooms:—

103 & 103A, OXFORD STREET, W. Telephone: Gerrard 8008, 8936.

Showrooms and Galleries:—

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, MARE STREET, HACKNEY.

Telephone: Dalston—3050 (6 lines).

Branches:

448, High Road, Chiswick, W. (close to Turnham Green).
14, High Road, Chiswick, W. (3 doors from Young's Corner).
204, High Road, Streatham (facing library).
73, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction, S.W.
110, High Street, Putney. 56 George Street, Croydon.
14, Southchurch Road, Southend.

HOURS OF BUSINESS, 9 to 6. OXFORD STREET, 9 to 8.

A. M. STEWART, Managing Director.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

GEMS FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"Suggestion how to pay:—If Mr. Bottomley is too busy, Hand it to one approved, and say '—— my old sport,' will hand you particulars of any of the no's given below. if you will take them in hand as if your own, adv in JOHN BULL to be sold to the highest bid, Agree price get surety for the money but receive no money untel satisfaction is given of what was sold and bought, Pay all epenses, and equally divide balance.'

No. 1. If you put windmill on a yacht to bear on propeller you could go about where you like just as a steamer.

No. 2. To get a ship off sandbank in few minutes The rusk of the ship condense the sand and make it hard, water forced under the ship would let it slip off.

No. 3. How to dry farmers tears, and change his language, Keep two tame foxes and on galop day put the foxes scent on any track you like to chose and in front of the dogs at a rate of twenty or thirty miles an hour. This plan would provide about a dozen advantage such as, Kill the wild foxes, Esape the crops, Bar the platerick horse, The foxex pretty cubs woul pay for their keep &c. &c. could put up a grandstand sell tickets to see the daughters of Eve on their firey steeds chasing the flying horn."

"Will you kindly let me know what time in the morning would I reach Paddington if I started from hear now, And why is welsh best spoken not at all. Also if you have given any thought of the next football season as I fancied Aston Villa this season."

"j hope you will reason with me j hope you have mercy for i did not Notice this i.i time jt was not convenient for me at the time plese look over it Contribute your way."

OUR 80TH "BULLETS" WINNER.

Mr. Geo. Eaton, of 23, Juer Street, Battersea, S.W., the winner of the £500 prize in our 80th "Bullets" competition, writes:—

> I am in receipt of your favour of 28th inst. enclosing cheque for £500, and am quite at a loss how best to express the great pleasure the contents gave me. I am a commercial traveller in the brush trade, and have been for some years with Messrs. Neuhafer and Levi, 11, Fore Street, London, E.C. The idea for the winning "Bullet" is entirely my own. The philosophical aspect of the answer struck my mind first, and I afterwards thought of its literal truth. I am an old reader of your go-ahead paper—in fact, almost from the beginning—but only during the last five competitions have I gone in for "Bullets." I won two small prizes previous to this. Feeling thoroughly convinced of the straightforwardness of your methods, I shall use my best efforts to confound all sceptics I come across. Please accept this little cheque of £5 for your "Human Document" Fund, and at the same time my very best thanks and good wishes.

The actual £500 cheque reproduced below, will be on view at the premises of Mr. A. Harley, 246, Battersea Bridge Road, London, S.W., until May 8th, and until May 12th

at those of Mr. C. O. Blick, 76, Battersea Bridge Road.

A reproduction of the cheque will be shown daily on the screen at Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London. S.W.

Berkeley

Loose-Cover Easy Chairs

THE Berkeley Loose-Cover Easy Chair is specially designed for Bedrooms and the Drawing Room. It is dainty in appearance, yet strongly constructed upon a sound Birchwood frame. The sides and back are gently curved, giving extreme comfort, and the seat is sprung with best steel-coppered springs.

Covered in Casement Cloth and fitted with a charming Loose Cover in Cretonne of your own selection. The range of materials is delightful in its variety of colourings. This loose cover can be slipped on or off the chair for washing, and the chairs can be used without the cover if desired. As a supreme guarantee it is sold on the

MONEY BACK PRINCIPLE.

On receipt of 2/6 with order we will send the chair, carefully packed and carriage paid, direct to your door in England or Wales, and if it is not completely satisfactory you may return the chair at our expense, and we will refund your money in full. Send postcard to-day for patterns of Cretonnes. Sent Post free with full particulars.

27/6 COMPLETE WITH LOOSE COVER.
Or 2/6 with order and balance 4/- monthly.

H. J. SEARLE & Son, Ltd., Easy Chair Specialists.

Dept. J.B. 70-78, OLD KENT ROAD, LONDON, S.E.
(Established 1877.) Telephone: 1814 City.

WHITELEY'S KILDARE CLUB CYCLES

£3:19:6 12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF 6/8

Splendidly built and well finished, Dunlop Cambridge Tyres, Perry Chain and Free Wheel, nicely Lined. British Built Throughout.

RALEIGHS HUDSONS
SWIFTS HUMBERS
SINGERS JAMES

MOTOR CYCLES and CYCLE CARS by EASY Payments at 5% extra. £1 in £5

Our Kildare Club Models are sound, honest value, and are supplied by Easy Payments at the Cash Prices, without one penny extra charge for the 12 months' credit. Whiteleys are the only firm in the British Isles offering such

WONDERFUL EASY PAYMENT TERMS.

Send for Catalogue AT ONCE
Carriage Paid throughout the United Kingdom

WM. WHITELEY LTD. QUEEN'S RD., LONDON, W.

Please mention "John Bull."

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

Mr. S. BOYCE, West End Cottages, Soton, Hants. April 11th. 840,662.
Mr. J. GARGAN, 8, Cromwell Street, Widnes, Lancs. April 18. 703,402.
Mr. W. PARSLEY, "Spread Eagle," Stangate Street, Lambeth, S.E. April 18th. 238,701.

(Other names and addresses are held over through lack of space.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of May 2nd.

007699	190720	368384	544147	880817
013460	207172	369243	579604	875572
021453	228035	389074	619088	894321
048007	233162	402702	657531	908753
056144	252331	420810	689573	932112
067015	275702	431195	703509	967783
101121	307764	451470	736020	994309
127264	314178	464648	773850	A000764
158188	341909	490218	787319	A002580
170324	349140	518835	803993	A009342

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on May 13th).

THE PECOL OIL COMBINE

Founded on Co-Partnership lines to drill 27,840 acres (43 square miles) of Petroleum Lands in the Pecos Valley, Eddy County, U.S.A. Reported by numerous experts to be rich in Oil. A Combination of Oil Companies whose development work will be carried out by one Drilling Company. Each of the Companies is moderately capitalised and has Protroleum Drilling Rights over 960 acres.

The purchase consideration consists solely of fully paid shares in the Companies.

Combined Capital - - £435,000

£191,000 will be the amount available for Working Capital and Reserve from the proceeds of Shares and Royalty Certificates of £5 each, which will entitle the holders to a proportionate share of the first Five per cent. of the proceeds of all Oil sold in each year from the Field by the Combine, the Royalty being secured by a Trust Deed.

TRUSTEES for Royalty Certificate Holders:

Col. The Hon. A. E. DALZELL, C.B., Burton Court, Linton, Herefordshire.

The Hon. H. FLETCHER-MOULTON, 11, King's Bench Walk, Temple.

DIRECTORS

(of Companies forming the Pecol Oil Combine)

Chairman of the Companies:

Sir GERARD SMITH, K.C.M.G., Helford House, Baldock, Herts. Director Maikop Orient Oil Co., Ltd., and San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway Company, Ltd.

Sir WYNDHAM HANMER, Bart., Bettisfield Park, Flintshire.

Col. The Hon. A. E. DALZELL, C.B., Burton Court, Linton, Herefordshire.

WM. SELBY-LOWNDES, Whaddon Hall, Bletchley, Bucks, Director The Royal Insurance Co., Ltd. (West End Branch).

GERALD BROWNE, A.M.Inst.C.E., M.I.M.M., Worcester House, London, E.C., Consulting Mining and Civil Engineer.

ALFRED PASSMORE POUSSETTE, K.C., Kent Building, Toronto, Canada.

CHARLES NEWMAN, Normanton, Cheisfield, Kent.

EDWARD ORR TAYLOR, 244, St. George Street, Toronto, Retired District Officer of the Hudson's Bay Company.

ROBERT WARNER, 14, Priory Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.

A. L. FURBER, M.E., 14, Cockspur Street, S.W., Managing Director, formerly Manager Oilfields of Mexico Company.

Bankers:

THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, Ltd., 35, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., and Head Office and Branches.

THE BRITISH BANK OF NORTHERN COMMERCE, Ltd., 41-43, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Solicitors:

C. R. ENEVER, Broad Street House, New Broad Street, London, E.C.

HOWARD H. WILLIAMS, 31, Nassau Street, New York.

Secretary and Offices:

WILLIAM LEONARD HALL, 14, 15 and 16, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.

The Companies also have Branch Offices in the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada, under the laws of which Dominion all the Companies are duly Registered.

THE PECOL OIL COMBINE.

The Principle of the Combine is extremely simple and conducive to the most economic and effective working.

One Drilling Company (with an authorised capital of £100,000) will drill for all the Companies.

The Share Capital of the Drilling Company will be owned by all the combined Companies and the Directors.

Fifty per cent. of the net proceeds of oil from the area worked by any one Company will be paid to that Company.

The other fifty per cent. will belong to the Drilling Company for its Shareholders (the combined Companies).

Consequently, each Company will have behind it the resources of the Drilling Company, which will bear the entire cost of sinking wells and development work.

Even before the drilling operations of any one Company are productive, such Company will receive its proportion of the profits earned by the producing Companies.

According to the Reports of numerous well-known Experts, the Pecol Oil Field contains immense deposits of Petroleum of high grade quality Situated as it is within easy distance of a railroad, transport facilities are exceptionally good, and markets for the Oil in large quantities and at high prices exist close at hand.

Development Work to produce so huge an output as is anticipated will take time, but allowing one well only to each 30 acres, and reckoning that these wells give an average daily production of only 50 barrels of Oil, at a profit of, say, 4s. per barrel, a fair estimate, the entire Field, when thus developed, would give a production showing an annual return amounting to £3,287,250 for distribution amongst the Combined Companies for the benefit of their shareholders.

OIL BOOM IN THE DISTRICT.

Much attention has recently been drawn to this region as being richly impregnated with Oil, and many of the leading Oilmen of America have secured locations in the neighbourhood. Active drilling operations are now being conducted by them and a number of Wells have been sunk, which are producing high grade Oil in payable quantities.

The Pecol Combine has acquired Petroleum Drilling Rights over the large and important area of 43 Square Miles, and steps are now being taken to provide adequate Working Capital with which to develop this Great New Oilfield, which Experts predict will rival those of California, Texas and Oklahoma

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS.

Mr. CHARLES A. DINSMORE, a Mining Engineer of great local repute, describes the area as "the most wonderful section of all I have seen in the South-west for almost certainty of oil." . . . "The sands underlying are heavily impregnated with Oil, only waiting for the drills to bring in Petroleum in large quantities. As an Oil proposition simply, it is conservative business to drill on this Pecol Field; there is no holding more favourable, no holding where the bringing in of Oil is more certain."

Dr. H. N WARREN, G. and M.E., an Oil Expert and Geologist of wide reputation, says:—

After a close study of this tract (the Pecol Field), covering nearly every square mile, I am firmly convinced that wells of large capacity will be encountered on every portion at a depth from 1,200 to 1,500 feet.

Mr. F. W. C. BILLINGS, a well-known Oil Expert, says:—

I have visited many Oil Districts and have never seen better surface conditions. The tract is the best located in the district and is in the main oil belt.

Mr. LEOPOLD BALBACH, M.E. (the Vendor), says:—

This tract (the Pecol Fields) bears all the earmarks of being a valuable oil property, and I firmly believe that every acre of it will produce good paying oil wells.

Mr. FAYETTE A. JONES, C.E., E.M., LL.D., Economic Geologist, Regent of The School of Mines, in a report on the Pecos Valley Field, says:—

From present showings large producing wells seem almost certain to be brought in as development proceeds

Mr. J. M. KELLERMAN, a well-known California and Pennsylvania Oil Expert says in his Report on the Pecos Valley Oil Field:—

I find the geological condition most favourable, and the prospect of such an immense deposit of oil that it is difficult for me to even predict its future.

Mr. B. W. WATLINGTON, M.E., in his report on the District, writes:—

The general formation of the country is favourable and is similar to some of the largest oilfields in California. One cannot be otherwise than impressed as to the future of the field.

Mr. A. L. FURBER, M.E., Managing Director of the Pecol Drilling Company, Limited, an Oil Expert of great experience, was recently sent out specially by the Directors of the Pecol Oil Combine to make an independent examination of the property on their behalf; as the result he stated:—

"Have seen enough to form highest opinion Oil prospects," and in his report recently received he describes it as "extremely well located," and says:—

"I do not hesitate to recommend the expenditure of such sums as may be necessary to develop this portion of the Valley. It appears to me almost certain that oil will be discovered here in commercial quantities, and there are excellent reasons for supposing that wells of large capacity will be developed."

THE PECOL OIL COMBINE.

As an illustration of the benefits of the Combine and the large profits to be obtained by an investment of, say, £100 in one of the Companies, it may be pointed out that upon Oil being produced in paying quantities within the area of 930 acres over which its Drilling Rights extend, and reckoning one well to 30 acres, each giving only 50 barrels of Oil per day, or 1,600 barrels from all its wells, the profits of such one Company, after allowing for the payment of the Royalty and the amounts divisible among the remaining Companies, should amount to

AN ANNUAL RETURN OF £238 FOR AN INVESTMENT OF £100,

which does not take into account the further amounts which the Company would receive as Shareholders in the Drilling Company from oil produced on the other properties, and the sums payable to Shareholders holding Royalty Certificates.

The above Amount of 1,600 Barrels per day might easily be produced or even largely exceeded by one well alone.

The above is the estimated return from any one of the Companies when it has fully developed the area over which its Drilling Rights extend, on the basis of an average output of 50 barrels of Oil from each producing well. If, however, expert opinion is borne out by results, then the output will be even greater.

Under the principle of the Combine, even if (contrary to expectation) one of the Companies did not produce a single barrel of Oil, its shareholders would, on the above basis, still receive a substantial return on their capital.

The Investor may average his Investment—he can invest in several or all of the Companies as he pleases, and they with their moderate capital will be able, when even less than half their Wells are producing as above, to return to their Shareholders dividends possibly running to hundreds per cent., after adequate provision for further development.

Full particulars and copies of Reports (upon the faith of which alone will applications for Shares be accepted), together with Plan of Property and details of the Oil Combine organised to develop this new Oilfield, which has commanded such tribute from experts, will be posted to all interested on receipt of Application Form.

APPLICATION FORM

To **THE PECOL SHARE CORPORATION, LIMITED,**
14, 15, and 16, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

Please forward full particulars with Experts' Reports, etc., of the PECOL OIL COMBINE.

(Signed) *Name*.....

Address.....

J.B.

Telegraphic Address: "Edlycol, Westrand, London."
Telephone: Central 9117.

WINNER OF CUP-TIE PRIZE.

The target-practice of H.M.S. *Vengeance*, now lying at Sheerness, should be exceptionally fine if we may judge its merit by the Cup Final shot fired by one of its crew.

We offered £2,500 to the Competitor who hit the bull's-eye, and only the infinitesimal fraction of an inch prevented Charles E. Rudall, H.M.S. *Vengeance*, Sheerness, from carrying off the mammoth prize! How near he came to complete success may be gauged from the following figures:

Cup Tie Result.

Burnley 1—Liverpool 0. Attendance 74,093.

Mr. Rudall's coupon read:—

Burnley 1—Liverpool 0. Attendance 74,092.

So, had but one visitor refrained from visiting the Final Game on April 25th, Mr. Rudall would have carried off the £2,500. Very hard luck indeed for him; but he has the satisfaction of winning the £400 Consolation Prize.

The "home" address of the winner is:—

89, Peabody Avenue,
Pimlico,
London, S.W.,

where his much respected parents have resided for nearly twenty-years.

Whilst heartily congratulating him on his success, we must not forget to extend our sincere sympathy to two other competitors, Mr. Anthony, of Gordon Street, Leeds, Yorks, and Mr. Pycock, of Healing, Grimsby, each of whom gave the correct result of the match and were only 2 out in the matter of attendance. The result will confound the canting critics who declared that it was impossible for any competitor to get near the correct figures.

We offered a special prize of £100 to the competitor sending the best forecast on a coupon taken from *Mary Bull*. Here, too, quite a large number gave the correct score, and were very close in attendance figures. Nearest of all was:—

Miss H. Beckett,
26, Lower St. Columbia's Road,
Drumcondra, Dublin,

who gave the correct score and the attendance as 74,096.

Some of the competitors were very amusing. One lady wrote, after the event, asking if her coupon stood a chance. "I have given Liverpool 2—Burnley 1. Attendance 123,000." Another, from Northumberland, wrote as follows:—"I sent you a coupon but think I forgot to sign my name to it. You will know it because I gave Burnley to win 1—0. Please find it and sign my name to it." We are ever willing to oblige a lady, but occasionally the task set us is beyond our powers. The limit was reached by one competitor, who frankly avowed that he was "hard up" and offered, if he were awarded the £2,500, to give half of that sum to the Controller of our Football Competition Department. Was man ever so tempted?

£10,000
guaranteed on the
DERBY.

("John Bull" says: The Totalisator Guarantee is gilt-edged.)
("London Mail" says: The only firm we can recommend.)

Copies of letters from successful clients:—

7, Admiralty Rd., Portsmouth
Dec. 4th, 1913.

Please accept my thanks for the promptitude in dispatching cheque for £1,500 and for precautions taken by you in safeguarding its receipt by me.

(Signed), Winifred M. Everitt.

Hill Top Farm, Fairburn, Ferrybridge, Yorks. March 28th, 1914.

I received the cheque this morning, value, £2,500, with many thanks. (Signed), G. R. Atkinson.

OVER £45,000 HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED.

The following papers have written complimentary opinions about The Totalisator, Lucerne:—"TIMES." "STANDARD." "IRISH TIMES." "DAILY EXPRESS" "IRISH INDEPENDENT." "MORNING ADVERTISER." "GLOBE." "WINNING POST" "JOHN BULL." "SPORTING LIFE." "PALL MALL GAZETTE" "BRADFORD DAILY TELEGRAPH." "LONDON MAIL." ETC.

Terms free on application mentioning this paper to

THE TOTALISATOR,

ESTABLISHED 1908.

Lucerne, Switzerland.

Managing Director - - H. CULLERNE-BOWN.

IF YOU'RE A HIGH-GRADE MAN

with special Ability which fits you to occupy a really Responsible Post as Salesman, Clerical, Technical, Organising or Travelling capacity—perhaps you are in touch with your right position through Happy Ads. We have large numbers of High-Grade Positions open and we want to hear from Bright, Energetic Men of more than Average Ability who are capable of filling them. If you are such a man—write us to-day.

HAPGOODS Ltd., Employment Experts. 167-168, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

A £1,000 S.P. JOB: RACE AT ITS MERCY.

Will win like our LAST FIVE £1,000 COUPS, viz.:—PITMASTON, BEDGROVE, GALLIOT 16-1, CURRAGH 6-1, IRON DUKE 5-1. Our next BIG £1,000 COUP runs for the JUBILEE NEXT SATURDAY. Defeat scorned. Post quick $1 for this WIRE. If it does not WIN at a BIG PRICE we will post the $5, "RACING STUD SPECIAL" till JULY FREE which gives ONLY "FOUR" BIG TIPS each week. Gave OUTRAM 25-1 won, TRIARON 100-8 2nd, CHINA COCK 8-1, won, WRACK 4-1 won, CHINA COCK (Queen's Prize) 11-4 won, and in their issue April 13th gave ARNECY 100-8 for the Gt. MET., KENMORE 1000 GNS., also many minor wins, BOSS 6-1, etc. ALL PROOFS before racing sent to "JOHN BULL," which says: "Run on straight lines." Post $5 for NEXT MONDAY'S "BIG" ISSUE of THE "RACING STUD SPECIAL" HIGH ROAD, TURNHAM GREEN LONDON, giving the NEWMARKET STAKES' "PEA" and our DERBY and OAKS DOUBLE.

ALLEN'S DAILY SYSTEM WIRES

YOU CAN START WITH ONLY £3 CAPITAL! PROFITS OFTEN EXCEED £10 DAILY.

Known throughout the world as the most reliable means of beating the bookmakers. Don't lose any more money.

I ASSURE YOU A REGULAR INCOME

without fail each season. Follow my Daily System Wires and celebrated method of investment. Acknowledged by all my clients as the most wonderful method ever invented. IT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME. There is no risk, as, should I fail in the terms of my guarantee,

I WILL RETURN YOUR MONEY IN FULL

without making any deductions for telegraphic expenses. Could I say anything fairer or offer more genuine proof?

Send for MY GREAT FREE 44-Page BOOK. It contains scores of testimonials, proofs, press opinions, past selections, and moreover, explains HOW TO MAKE RACING PAY. Don't wait until to-morrow, you may forget.

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING,

so sit down and write now. Simply write your name and address and the words "JOHN BULL" on a postcard, and the book will be sent you by return of post in a PLAIN SEALED ENVELOPE.

MY GREAT FREE 44-PAGE BOOK TELLS YOU HOW YOU CAN MAKE RACING PAY!

C. ALLEN, 386, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. Telegrams:—"REGLINCOM, WESDO, LONDON."

A Free £10,000 Sweepstake

AN APOLOGY—AN EXPLANATION—AND A PROMISE.

In the issue of "JOHN BULL" for the week ending April 25th, I referred to the mischief done by certain wild and irresponsible statements which have recently appeared in the Press, with the object of throwing discredit upon Sporting Sweepstakes, however bona fide, conducted from Switzerland. I mentioned that whilst there is no question whatever of the great John Bull Derby Sweep, for instance, being duly carried out, it was possible that several of the smaller people would shortly receive notice to leave Switzerland, but that in my view the outcome of the recent activity of the authorities would be official recognition of the principal firms. I then explained that in the meantime I was desirous of giving my clients a free flutter in a £10,000 Sweepstake, to be drawn under the personal supervision of the Editor of "JOHN BULL," in whose hands the full amount of the prize fund would be placed.

AN APOLOGY.

This announcement has brought such an enormous number of inquiries that I have to publicly apologise for my inability to deal with them.

AN EXPLANATION.

Let me explain. I am not distributing £10,000 amongst all and sundry who care to ask for it—my intention being to confine the offer to my own clients;—i.e., to those who participated in the John Bull Derby Sweep of 1913, which I had the honour of conducting, my Cambridgeshire Sweep of last year, and my recent Sweep upon this year's Grand National. To each of these who has written for particulars I have immediately replied.

A PROMISE.

I have, however, decided to include in the offer all inquirers who cut out and forward to me the coupon at the foot of this page. I do this as a special compliment to the readers of "JOHN BULL," but this is the fullest extent to which I can go.

PATRICK O'BRIEN.

COUPON FOR USE OF "JOHN BULL" READERS ONLY.

To Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN,
Lucerne, Switzerland.

Please forward me particulars of your free £10,000 Sweepstake, as announced in "JOHN BULL."

Name.....

Address.....

Postage 2½d. Postcards 1d.

Bull's Eyes.

Notes of Interrogation :—

Are the 'busmen getting a "faro" wage now?

Isn't Ulster determined to "stick to her guns"?

Have you "scored" in our Cricket Contest yet? See page 33.

Shouldn't theatrical managers allow the public *one* day of rest?

Will Lloyd George "make the most" of his Budget opportunities?

Wasn't the Cup Final a case of "Once bitten, twice [shy" for many?

Don't the Boys' Brigades bands ever play "Put Me Among the Girls"?

Doesn't President Wilson wish he had "taken measures" for the job first?

Shouldn't Mr. Dennis Eadie, who plays eight parts a night, be in the Cabinet?

Is the shilling entrance fee for Hampton Court Palace to keep the Suffragettes out?

Shouldn't the "suffies" remember that the Serpentine is a good place for "ducks"?

* * *

"Hide and Seek" seems to be now the Party Game in Ulster?

* * *

It is quite possible for a man to sow wild oats until they become tame.

* * *

"Office-boy Gagged," reads a headline. Whistling, we suppose.

* * *

There has been a voters' strike in Monaco. Did they want better pay?

* * *

"Burglary as a Joke," we read. But it has to be seen to be appreciated.

* * *

The title of a new revue, "They're Off," doubtless refers to the costumes.

* * *

A new book is called "The Strong Heart." It will require a lot of beating.

* * *

"I am, in principle, a Socialist," says Lord Milner. What is he in interest?

* * *

The strike of bootmakers in the West End was, we understand, a "last" resource.

* * *

"How to Marry a Widow," reads a heading. Easy; leave it to her, if you don't know.

* * *

"Beneath Big Ben" is the heading to an article. Is there anything beneath it nowadays?

* * *

The buying value of a sovereign is said to be decreasing. Moral: Spend your money now.

* * *

Baden-Powell says the Army is not a bone to be wrangled over. No, it ought to be picked.

* * *

"Many a good husband nowadays is spoiled in the cooking," says a contemporary. Yes, "done" too much.

* * *

Father Vaughan thinks religion the only thing worth advertising. He is a very good advertisement "manager."

* * *

Cricket lessons during school-hours are to be given at Northampton. The scholars' "innings" will be "outings."

* * *

A Wednesbury clergyman has been dilating on the curse of Sunday trading. Doesn't he have collections on that day?

* * *

"Hooks and eyes were invented by the devil for man's undoing," says Peter Blundell. But doing them up is the deuce.

* * *

The Kaiser has forbidden his officers to deal with marriage brokers. Commissioned men must not have "commissioned" wives.

* * *

From New York comes the story of an insect whose bite is intoxicating. Most topers, however, will prefer the old-fashioned "nip."

* * *

The price of cat's-meat has doubled itself in two years, and, as a purveyor sadly remarked, it is hard work to "skewer" a living at it nowadays.

* * *

In a Willesden case, three-farthings a dozen was mentioned as the price for machining shirts. The man who pays it ought to be treated as one—collared and cuffed.

Printer's Pie.

(The Work of "The Devil.")

"Evening Times" (Glasgow) :—

"It is gratifying to learn that Queen's Park (Football Club) are making capital progress in singing."

"Union Jack Library" :—

"He simply took his feet off, and wrapped his legs round the smooth sides, sliding off into the darkness."

"Daily Sketch" :—

"Americans feel much as Englishmen did after Majuba. For the position is no jesting one for Americans and other Europeans in Mexico."

"Glasgow Citizen" advertisement :—

"Girl wanted for small shop; elderly lady preferred."

"Dover Times and East Kent Guardian" :—

"The programme (at a café chantant at Dover) included two readings, with tableaux, by Mr. F. W. Whitehouse, M.A., Mr. H. J. Taylor, F.R.C.O., F.T.C.L., providing groan accompaniment."

"Daily Mail" :—

"A Local Government Board inquiry (was held) at Huddersfield into an application by the corporation to borrow £58,972 for road-paving the borough engineer."

"South Wales Echo" :—

"She leaned forward, and pushing my chair gently off my feverish forehead, kissed me with firm, cool lips."

"Manchester Guardian" :—

"Working eight hours a day, these workers should be able to earn 0s. a week, and have their leisure time absolutely free."

"Kentish Express and Ashford News"—

"Although the Fire Brigade were called the flames were quickly extinguished."

"South Wales Argus" report of a compensation case :—

"Dr. Lloyd, Abergavenny, said he saw the girl almost immediately she was buried. She was then in a very bad condition, and he wondered that she had lived."

"Freeman's Journal" :—

"Through the falling of Double Ditch in the Maiden Steeplechase at Leopardstown yesterday Mr. M. G. Hartigan sustained a broken collar bone; and in the same race when Gunsnap came to grief, he sustained such injuries that he had to be destroyed."

"Daily Chronicle" :—

"At Stockport, according to the story given to the police, Mr. Azencot was discovered with a scarf and unconscious in his bunk in the sleeping car. The Stockport police were unable to find anything, but they did find near the bunk a bottle containing a foreign drug, and on the floor were a collar, a tie, and several other little articles which had evidently been discarded by someone who had been a passenger in the saloon. Mr. Azencot denies that they are his."

"Pawnbrokers' Gazette and Trade Circular" advertisement :—

"Manager for Sale, open or closed front, wishes to make change; married; well recommended; pushing methods. London or suburbs. Write C. U., c.o. Ladbroke Terrace Mews, Notting Hill Gate."

"Daily Mail" advertisement :—

"Motor-car packing export merchants require good working packer, able to securely pack himself."

"Weekly Herald" (Tottenham) :—

"The District Council (Edmonton) discussed the following motion by Councillor W. D. Cornish: 'That this Council instruct the Clerk to write to Lord Ashton asking him whether he would deceive a deputation from this Council with reference to the proposed closing down of one of the most important factories in Edmonton."

Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published in this column. Should more than one competitor call attention to the same blunder, the amount will be forwarded to the sender of the first letter opened. In the case of newspaper cuttings sufficient must be forwarded to identify the name of the journal and date of issue. Envelopes to be marked "Printer's Pie" in the left-hand top corner.

Note:—The Pen Coupon This Week on PAGE 2 of cover.

YOUR LAST CHANCE—FINAL COUPON THIS WEEK.

This is your last chance to win our £1,000 Cricket prize. The final coupon appears on our cover this week. Fill in your forecasts now. The contest closes first post Monday, May 11th—but send early. You can forward as many coupons as you like. In any event £200 must be won.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

is to forecast the results of the Cricket matches to be played on dates between May 11th and May 25th.

Before making your forecasts read our Special Method of marking the coupon, as explained by Rule 1.

Matches commenced and unfinished count as draws. If both sides score an equal number of runs the match will be regarded as being drawn. Matches not commenced at all, not a single ball being bowled, will be ignored. Thus

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

£1,000 will be paid to the Competitor sending us an entrance form giving a correct forecast of all the matches given. Should it happen that no entrance form be received containing all the correct results we shall award the huge cash prize of **£500** to the competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the event of the £1,000 or £500 not being won, we shall pay **£150** to the competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number. In addition, we shall pay a cash prize of **£50** for the most correct forecast sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from *Mary Bull*. This is a distinct and additional prize—by using a Mauve Coupon the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the £1,000, £500, or £150, but also an extra £50.

£200 MUST BE WON.

The competition is one of skill, and a test of knowledge of cricket form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Cricket columns of the daily papers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our special method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way.

Our Competition Department is now under the personal supervision of "McW.," the well-known Sporting writer, late of the "Morning Leader" and "Daily Chronicle."

NO FEES
NO
SCORES
REQUIRED

The
COUPON
will be found
on
PAGE ii. of COVER.

As a guide to competitors we give with the coupon on page ii. of cover last year's results of the matches we have selected for this Competition, together with a duplicate Coupon, provided solely for the convenience of competitors in keeping a record of their entries. It must on no account be sent in.

Address: **JOHN BULL, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.** Mark envelope, **"Cricket Contest No. 1."** Closing date, Monday, May 11th.

SCOTTISH READERS MAY ENTER.

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

1. To safeguard the interests of our competitors we have adopted the following rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a X in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win, put a X in the Away Column. For a Draw put a X in the Draw Column.
2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner Cricket Contest No. 1, and post to reach us not later than *first post* Monday, May 11th, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.
3. The £1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results of all the matches, as published in the *Sporting Life*.
4. In the event of no Entrance Form containing all correct results, £500 will be paid to the competitor whose Coupon shows one error only. In the event of the £1,000 or £500 not being won, £150 will be awarded to the sender of the Entrance Form containing the nearest correct forecast. In addition a distinct cash prize of £50 will be awarded for the most correct forecast on a MAUVE COUPON taken from *Mary Bull*. If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £1,000, the £500, or the £150, the *Mary Bull* prize will be awarded to the sender of the next most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of the £1,000 or £500 prizes being won, the £150 prize will, of course, not be awarded. The £50 mauve coupon prize will be paid in any event.
5. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received.
6. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to the competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.
7. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.
8. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the £1,000 the £500, or the £150 prize, as well as the special £50 Mauve Coupon prize, will be equally divided.

THE CLOSING DATE IS MONDAY, MAY 11.

£50 FOR A MAUVE COUPON £50

For the present Cricket Contest we shall award a distinct prize of £50 for the best forecast on a "Mary Bull" Mauve Coupon. This is an additional prize, the sender of the Mauve Coupon having the opportunity of winning not only the £1,000, the £500, or the £150, but also an extra £50. The Final Mauve Coupon appears in this week's issue of "Mary Bull" on sale Friday next, May 8th.

You can send in as many Coupons as you like.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 39 where you will find particulars of "Bullets."

GRAND WHITSUNTIDE PRIZE LIST THIS WEEK. £1,000 for the best "Bullet" received—Second Prize increased to £100. 6,123 Cash and other prizes to be won to the total value of £1,500, including 10 Holiday prizes of £10 and 10 of £5.

JOHN BULL £50,000 DERBY SWEEP.—Will readers please bear in mind that we cannot either supply or apply to applications for books of tickets for this sweepstake; nor can we act as agents for receiving and forwarding money for tickets. All communications *must* be addressed direct to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, LEGAL *and* SPORTING *inquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, Legal or Sporting Editor, and, except in the case of the last named, must each be accompanied by a postal order for a shilling. All communications should be directed to* 93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

GENERAL.

J. H. C. (Leicester).—We should have been more interested in the programme and menu of your annual dinner had it been accompanied by a ticket for the feast. It is hard to work up enthusiasm for other people's gastronomic enjoyments.

A. S. (Rustington).—We have examined the trumpery book given your little daughter as a prize for school attendance. If that is all she gets for twelve months' punctuality, we should be inclined to be late or absent now and again.

"LEO" (Dalmuir).—We think an ambulance wagon should give way to a fire engine. True, the former may be on its way to save a life, but a moment's delay of the latter might lose a score of lives.

"ALLIANCE II." (Hull).—"Wooley's" the shady firm of self-styled Colonial Agents, who "traded" for a while from the pretty village of Gomshall, in Surrey, have effaced themselves. Your 2s., no doubt, came in handy. Moving is expensive amusement.

"YOUNG BULL" (Stockport) writes:—"Would you kindly furnish me the name of the World's Mile Record holder, Am. or Pro?" Certainly—if you will kindly furnish us with an idea as to whether you mean running, walking, flying, crawling, or hopping.

T. T. (St. George's East).—Our "Bullets" prizes are awarded for what we consider to be the cleverest efforts, irrespective of the social position of competitors, of which we know nothing, or the districts in which they live. Unfortunately, a few of the competitors are like young mothers—they think their geese are swans, and cannot understand why they do not carry off the premier prize. You appear to be one of these.

S. C. (Lambeth, S.E.).—So the photographic enlargement artists and framers (don't forget the frames!) have declared to you their intention to spend £500 to smash JOHN BULL. All Long Acre vibrates with our trembling.

"DASHER" (Cardiff).—The hands of the police should be strengthened to enable them to deal adequately with the cheap jack gentry whose headquarters appear to be at Cardiff, and who defraud the simple country folk who come in from the hills. We have exposed their methods time and again.

"PONTEFRACT CASTLE" (Pudsey) asks: "Why is 'Handle' Booth, M.P., 'doubling' his Capital?" Is this a serious question, or are you Larkin?

I. D. R. INKWATER (Bristol).—We have no animus against teetotalers, as such, but against the canting humbugs who try to impose their principles on other people we shall always use the lash. If you had not tried so hard to be funny, but striven instead to conform to the elementary rules of English grammar, your letter would have given us even greater pleasure.

D. L. (Dundee).—The highest break ever made in billiards was, we believe, when a friend of ours smashed the skylight with the long butt.

G. B. (Drapers' Gardens, E.C.).—We certainly do think that Sir T. Dewar and other big game hunters might be more usefully employed than in slaying harmless, scarce, and beautiful creatures like the giraffe. The fact that this animal possesses an extra long neck should be the last thing to excite enmity.

C. W. J. (B'ham).—Can we give you any information "as regards to the straightforwardness of the British Clothing Club"? How can we inform you about what does not exist?

"RAB" (Nottingham).—Put not your trust in princes, nor in the International Dramatic Academy, 177A, High Street, Kensington.

"PHILO" (L'pool).—We are not prejudiced against the Welsh language as a language—it makes us smile too much for that. But we are opposed to its being taught as an ordinary subject in the schools, for the reasons stated in a recent paragraph.

J. W. W. (Belfast).—Seeing that the wages of a sea-going Marconi operator rarely exceed 30s. weekly, why should you pay such heavy fees to the Wireless Training Schools? The joy is greatly overrated, and there is already enormous competition amongst operators.

M. H. (Old Penshurst) thus: "I have had Iron Pailings Put round a grave. On Bottom of Bill (Rector's Fee) 10s. . . . What will the 10s. be for?" Obviously, for the Rector.

E. T. (Gateshead).—Sorry to say we can find no trace of your poem, which you say began as follows: "There's 'Bullets' made of paper, and 'Bullets' made of lead. But some people cut a caper Through 'Bullets' made in bed." It is a great loss to literature, which we deplore.

C. W. E. (Leicester).—Whilst sympathising with you, we can scarcely see our way to deal with the alleged neglect of the police to assist you when your motor dray got into difficulties at Pytchley Hunt Point-to-Point Races.

T. O. (Portadown).—Apparently the Convent of Mercy at Kilbeggan, W. Meath, will not get much out of you, although they offer you a blessed scapular medal in exchange for a subscription of 3s., or "a highly indulgenced Irish Horn Rosary" in return for six bob. We cannot in our hearts blame you for sticking to your money.

E. P. (Hounslow).—Our recent "Curtain Raiser" dealing with the photo enlargement trickster could not possibly injure honest photographers, indoor or out. You cannot blame us if an irritable lady confused you with the sharks we exposed. You should have reasoned with her gently. But perhaps she would not give you the opportunity.

T. M. (Jersey).—We have already noted that the old arch-humbug "Captain" Rand is now telling his tale to the Germans in their own language. We leave our Teutonic neighbours to take care of themselves. We have done our best to warn our compatriots against the Yankee shark.

J. L. (Kirkburton).—No, the "Barber's Chair" has not been pinched, but is being re-upholstered and disinfected. Meanwhile, we have taken on a chiropodist.

MR. and MRS. O. G. (Tonypandy).—If Pearson and Co., of 102, Crowther Street, Bradford, Yorks, have not yet refunded the 2s. deposit you sent them on account of a bale of bedding, you should summon them in the County Court for the money and damages for breach of contract.

J. L. (Aberdeen).—It was Seddon who appealed to the "Great Architect of the Universe" when declaring his innocence of the murder of Miss Barrow.

B. C. (Royston).—We know nothing about "Dr. Cho-Choy," the Chinese doctor whom you say is certified to be 145 years of age. He is apparently one of the physicians who *can* heal himself. Hope you have recovered from your injury by this time.

"CASTLE" (Clitheroe).—You should be able to obtain the books you want from the Rationalist Press, Ltd., 17, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

"CASHIER" (Edinburgh).—You are under no obligation to return by post any unsolicited article that may be sent to you, but must, of course, deliver up the goods if called for. Persons bombarded with fountain pens sent out by the City Pen Manufacturing Co., 14, Ivy Lane, Paternoster Row, E.C., please note.

M. H. G. (Glas.), "NERO" (Bristol), W. J. A. G. (Birmingham), and OTHERS.—We are not in a position to recommend the National Success Institute, although assured that certain features to which we recently took exception—in reference to the conditions attached to guaranteed employment—have been abandoned.

H. B. H. (London).—The "Atherley-Jones," of Tower Hill, you mention, is not worth a *groat*.

"SULTANA" (Brixton Hill, S.W.).—"What opportunities are there for a grocer's clerk in the colonies?" you ask. Splendid—for joining the ranks of the unemployed.

W. W. (Harringay, N.).—We are not surprised that the "magic amulet" ramp is worked in India—where superstition doubtless is more rife than in this prosaic country. Captain Rand's "lucky stone" appears to be an impotent pebble compared with the Tantric amulet from Calcutta, which, it is claimed, cures certain diseases. The "Captain" must look to his laurels.

Another Mommoth "Bullets" Prize Offer—See page 38. £1,000 for 2 or 3 Words.

T. E. S. (London, W.).—We see nothing inconsistent on the part of the London Chamber of Commerce in holding a public meeting on "The Supremacy of the Navy," and a few days later entertaining the German Ambassador at dinner. The stronger the Navy the more kindly our feelings towards our neighbours, you know. Besides, they may have got him tipsy—and talkative!

"A PARISHIONER" (Grindleton).—If you could see anything indecent in the Rev. Fred. G. Ackerby's article on the gipsies, published twelve months ago in the *Ribblesdale Magazine*, we are sorry for you. Moreover, it appears to have taken you nearly twelve months to discover the wickedness you imagine.

L. C. (Birmingham).—Not even yet has Mr. Basil Loder, the Secretary of the "Islanders'" Society, enlightened us as to the whereabouts of the invisible *Dreadnought*, nor of the money which was subscribed for its construction. Deferred hope maketh the heart sick—and the mind sceptical.

A. W. (Durham).—Yes, there *is* "such an address as the National Institute of Sciences, Westminster Bridge-on-Thames, London, S.E.," but, unless you are one of the fools who wish to part soon with their money, avoid the place as you would the plague.

S. S. (Marquard, O.F.S.).—When you say you are "able to convert Thousands of Cattle and Sheep every month into *Quids*," we—not being very well up in slang—presume you mean "goblins." By the way, are you fairly free in the Orange Free State?

J. P. (Walsall).—If you send 2s. to H. B. Edwards, 472, High Road, Chiswick, for information how to become a steward on an ocean liner, Mr Edwards will be very pleased—but we rather think *you* will be sorry.

"BRITISH BORN" (Ontario).—You have been diddled by one of the shady Yankee music publishers. We fancy you will have to wait a long time for the "200 free copies" of your "song poem" set to music.

"ST. AGNES" (nr. Bristol).—We have as yet no knowledge "as to the objects and work of 'The St. Elizabeth Centre of Light and Truth' of 22, Gosfield Street." Perhaps they will supply us with some light—*and* truth.

A. M. V. (Brixton) says she "may be mistaken in supposing that she holds a monopoly in information as to how the White Slave Traffic is carried on in London." We think it more than probable. The White Slave Traffic is more or less a myth. Most of the women engaged in the oldest profession in the world either accepted it from choice or were driven into it by sheer necessity.

J. B. (Canning Town).—Printed matter concerning the Canadians received. It is true that, in the mass, they are by no means as well educated as the Britishers who emigrate to Canada. They think much more of money than they do of education; and having precious little of either, look to the emigrants and to British capitalists to supply them.

R. F. R. (Brooklyn).—Replies have to await their turn for insertion, and that turn, owing to our limited space and our unlimited correspondence, does not always fall as quickly as we would like it to do.

T. H. B. (Toronto).—It is correct that of the 2½ million emigrants arriving in Canada since 1900, 873,730 are British. How glad about 800,000 of them would be if somebody would lend them their fare back home!

"P. O. TELEG." (H.M.S. *Devonport*).—"Say, Bill, who's the Chancellor of the Exchequer?" "Garn! You're pulling my blooming leg." "No I ain t—straight." "Well, I'm blowed. Fancy you! He's the bloke wot giv you your rise o' pay, o' course—Winston Churchill." As you say this conversation was overheard on the upper deck of your ship, we will believe you.

A. S. (Sheffield).—We are afraid we cannot assist you in the matter you bring to our notice. Your trade union should see to it.

A. W. W. (Highgate) complains about a photographic enlargement concern, and blames a certain weekly paper for inserting its advertisement. We are afraid that our correspondent is far too sweeping in his condemnation. The editor of a newspaper cannot be held responsible for every little advertisement inserted.

L. L. F. (Openshaw) and OTHERS.—What's the use of telling us you have sent 2s. to the Alhambra Warehouse, Free Street, Bradford, and can't get either the goods or the money? Haven't we been telling people not to do so for goodness knows how long?

PRIVATE G. H. (H.M.S. *Egmont*, Malta).—Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, was not cradled in the Navy, but in the Army, where he was a lieutenant in the 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars. Mr. Winston Churchill, the American author (no relation), did graduate, in 1894, from the United States Naval Academy.

R. C. F.—Immediately the "true inwardness" of the advertisement of the National Success Institute became known to us, we withdrew it. The postal order for 1s. has been handed to one of our "Human Ducuments," as you gave no address.

MR. J. ELLIS, the Superintendent of the Hayes Certified Industrial School for Jewish Boys, of Hayes End, Middlesex, wishes it to be known that the newspaper reports of a recent case are incorrect, as there is no Jewish Reformatory, his being the only certified institution for Jewish boys.

"PASSENGER" (s.s. *Benalla*) sends us a graphic account of a journey to "down under." If the incidents were a quarter as bad as related, we are very glad that we were not passengers.

C. H. C. (Birmingham).—The Birmingham "Nigger" Fund is evidently an admirable one. It has our hearty good wishes. Do you publish a balance sheet?

R. H. (Shepherd's Bush).—True that honesty is not always rewarded as it should be, but didn't you read in your copy-book long years ago that "Virtue is its own reward"? Consider what a lovely thing it is to be able to sleep o' nights without troubling about the policeman!

C. K. (Rothernitne).—Do give us credit for having something more important to do in the world than answering such questions.

"ENQUIRER" (Southend) writes and asks us to look into the accounts of the National Union of Dairy Employees. We have twice written the Secretary for a balance sheet, but he has ignored our letters. In the circumstances our reader must draw his own conclusions.

G. V. (Bordon).—We are not instructed in the rules of the classic card game of "Twenty-fives," so can offer no solution of the problem you submit to us.

T. A. (Bournemouth).—Your letter is utterly unintelligible to us. Can not you express clearly what it is you are driving at?

A. M. (Sutton-in-A.).—Thanks for wishing our valuable paper every success. We wish it every success ourselves.

"ANGLO-SCOT" (Glasgow).—Your letter is too long, and your chestnut is too rude.

"DYNAMITE SURVIVOR" (Monmouth).—Better write to the publisher of *The Times*, Printing House Square, London. For the American papers, turn up at your Public Library "Sell's Dictionary of the World's Press." That will put you on the track.

"CYMRO" (Devil's Bridge).—What was your question about Ellen Terry? Come again.

C. W. (Eastbourne Terrace, W.).—We know of several chemical substances which would "completely destroy the hair roots so as to dispense with shaving," but their application would probably completely destroy your face as well. If you are too lazy to shave, emigrate to South Africa and become a brother Boer.

M. P. (St. Leonards).—We daresay the system of memory training is all right, as a system—but the difficulty is to get the wandering mind concentrated on such artificial aids, which have to be memorised in the same way as the thing they are supposed to make you remember.

G. H. N. (Pontypridd).—The real point is that a proper system of education would take special pains to discover and make the most of the best breed for the purpose to which it was best adapted. Blood tells in men as it tells in racehorses, pigeons, or cock-a-doodle-doos; and to make the most of the best, wherever it is found, is simply helping Nature in its selective processes.

E. S. P. (Hellesdon).—We cannot trace having received the "brief history of your case," which you say was posted to us three months ago. It is unfortunate, as no doubt it will be ancient history by this time.

B. L. (Landrake).—What's wrong with you? Gone queer?

"LONELY" (Staffs).—The matrimonial agency you name has not specially been brought to our attention, but as you wish to know our opinion, it is that "there ain't no sich a thing" as a genuine fee-taking matrimonial agency.

J. E. W. (Glasgow).—Thanks for your assurance that the new Business Government League will succeed like success.

A. D. (W. Hampstead).—The decision of the Grimsby magistrates that a popgun is a firearm within the meaning of the Act may seem absurd, but how would you like to be plugged in the eye with the cork?

E. G. (Kensal Green) says we want a Business Government, and the Suffragettes want a moral government. What is the difference?

"ANOTHER BULL PUP" (Huddersfield).—We have no objection to your making a hobby of collecting curious epitaphs. *Chacun à son goût.* We prefer inscribing them.

B. G. (Halifax, N.S.).—We know nothing to the detriment of the pawnbrokers you mention, nor anything in their favour. In short, we know nothing whatever about them.

For Cricket Skill—£1,000 to be Won This Week—Final Coupon.

LEGAL.

D. C. (Walsall).—The landlord could distrain on your furniture for all arrears of rent. Ask him to allow you to leave, and to pay what you owe by instalments.

"Anxious Enquirer."—On the facts as stated, you are still bound by the lease. In the circumstances you should try to come to an amicable arrangement with the landlord.

N. B. (Margate).—It is certainly very unpleasant for an hotel proprietor to inform you that he does not wish you to patronise his house. Why worry? There are plenty of others in your locality.

A. J. T. (Shepherd's Bush).—If a person does not earn, or his means do not exceed, £21 per annum, he is entitled to a pension of 5s. a week. In reckoning the means the amount of the pension is not taken into consideration.

"Mascat" (Cardiff).—An employer need not pay a servant anything for any time that he is too ill to perform his duties. Many are adopting this attitude on account of the Insurance Act.

T. R. (Neath).—The South Wales Loan and Finance Co. are, of course, entitled to send a "special messenger" to collect the money due to them, but as for having a legal claim on you for 8s. 6d., his travelling expenses, bid them go hang.

R. C. S. (Dovercourt).—From the solicitor's letter it appears that the mortgagees sold the property many years ago. It would be hopeless to endeavour to re-open the matter now.

"Rodney" (Catford).—We should say your lady friend is entitled to a definite time for meals, but so far as we know there are no "means of making the firm toe the line of ordinary common decency in regard to the provision of a w.c."

G. H. (Brighton).—The company is not compelled to make a deposit with the Government. You cannot recover what you have paid. We have no knowledge of a Winding-up Order having been applied for.

H. R. W. (Hayle).—You may change your name as often as you like without any legal formalities, but you must take the consequences should any difficulty ever arise as to your identity. You can, if you choose, execute a deed poll declaring the fact of the change; such deed must be enrolled in the Royal Courts of Justice, London, and the alteration advertised in one or more of your local papers. You should instruct a solicitor to prepare the deed, making a bargain with him as to his charges first of all.

A. W. (Liverpool).—You can see a copy of the will at Somerset House after the death of the testator. The charge is a shilling. You can obtain a copy on payment of 6d. per folio of 90 words. On the security you mention, you could not obtain an advance except perhaps from moneylenders at about 60 per cent.

"India."—A person cannot verbally revoke his will on his death bed. He may, however, give away chattels, and if a gift were thus made the recipient could legally claim it.

"Carrs" (Lincoln).—You could easy find some one to lend you money on your expectancy, but the terms for such business are usually so onerous that we do not advise you to attempt it.

W. J. J. (Pontypool).—Sorry you were hurt; otherwise it might have been a bit of luck falling into a publican's cellar. Sue Boniface for damages in the County Court.

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial Insurance Inquiry.

Cottage Property.—T. B. (Marple).—We see no objection to your making the purchase, providing you obtain experienced advise before embarking upon the investment. We should prefer the National Freehold Land and Building Society, Moorgate Street, London, E.C., to the Society you name.

Paragon Mutual Society.—Wideawake.—You had better make another selection.

Law Union and Rock Insurance Company.—Rastus.—You need have no hesitation in continuing the policy. The Company is well managed and strong financially.

Japanese 4½ Per Cent. Bonds.—R. C. A. S. (Croydon).—Japan is getting into a rather tight corner financially, and you would be far better in some sound Home security, like Railway stocks or good industrial debentures.

Romane Oil Corporation.—W. R. (Aberdeen).—Do not touch the shares unless you want to lose your money. There is no market in them, and a moment's reflection ought to convince you that such fairy tales are quite unreliable.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—Mac (Glasgow).—The shares are fully paid and may be regarded as a safe investment, but both the dividend and price might suffer a sharp drop, and you can get equally good or better securities nearer home.

Strange and Sons.—Hard Hit (Kent).—No, you can do absolutely nothing except try to get rid of the shares, and there may be considerable difficulty about that.

Farrow's Bank.—A. S. (Stratford-on-Avon).—We believe the Bank to be perfectly sound.

Cunliffe, Russell and Co.—M. C. (Chepstow).—You will be quite safe in transacting your business with this firm, which is old-established and for whose *bona-fides* we can vouch.

Falmouth Consolidated Mines.—W. J. (Holloway).—Sir W. B. Peat has been appointed Receiver and Manager for the debenture holders, and the outlook for the shares is not rosy. According to the latest report the company is heavily in debt, and the cash resources are practically exhausted.

Bank Deposit.—E. S. M. (Exmouth).—In our opinion you cannot do better than deposit the sum you mention with the John Bull Bank, 27—30, Old Jewry, E.C., where it will earn a fixed 5 per cent. per annum.

Canadian Pacific 4 Per Cent. Preference.—Cocos.—The investment is safe enough, but Canada is certain to have to go through very hard times and a further fall in the price of the stock is probable.

Mining Investments, Etc.—Novice.—Your selection is a fairly good one, with the exception of Eldorado Basket, but you must know that the best of mines are highly speculative. Buenos Ayres Great Southern is a sound investment, although Argentina is not very flourishing at present. We do not recommend dealings with the Universal Stock Exchange.

Charrier and Marbut Carvings.—S. G. (Aylesbury).—It is certainly disgraceful that out of a gross trading profit of £7,570 only £383 is saved as net profit, and in other respects the position does not look satisfactory. The only thing you could do is to try and get fresh blood into the management at the next general meeting. There ought to be no excuse for taking so long to prepare the accounts.

United Kingdom Temperance and General Institution.—Mariner.—You will be quite safe in taking out the second policy you mention.

Friendly Society.—Quiz Darby.—The Society you mention is not known to us. Are you sure that you have given the correct title? When replying, send any papers you may have received.

Wesleyan and General Assurance Society.—Swithen.—It is financially sound, but, if you join, you should take up a policy in the Ordinary Branch, provided you are satisfied with the conditions relating to the Cash Surrender Value or the issue of a Paid-Up Policy.

Law Integrity Insurance Company.—Trainz.—We are not favourably impressed with the Instalment Investment Table. The amount of Surrender Value payable after three years is not stated. In any event, it means that if you discontinue payment before the policy matures you will suffer loss. We should prefer the Post Office for small savings.

Refuge Assurance Company.—T. G. (Co. Durham).—You had better get the matter cleared up by asking for a detailed statement showing the position of affairs at the time you left the Company's service.—Britannia.—If the policy is issued in the name of the proposer on the life of the husband, it is in order, and the wife is the legal holder. If issued in the husband's name direct, it should be endorsed by the Company to the effect that it is held for the wife's benefit. As regards the policy on the joint lives, are we to understand that it was issued without the husband's signature being obtained to the proposal form? If so, the policy was irregularly issued, and should be cancelled by the return to the wife of the premiums paid. Take up the matter with the Head Office.

National Standard Life Assurance Corporation.—Anxious.—Instruct a solicitor to enforce payment of the outstanding claim without delay. The application to amalgamate with the Hearts of Oak Life and General Assurance Corporation has been rejected by the Court.

Liverpool Victoria Legal Friendly Society.—Falk.—The Society is financially sound. Our complaint is that the conditions of the assurance are not more liberally expressed from the assurer's standpoint.

Provident Association of London.—F. J. K. (Dorchester).—If you are satisfied with the conditions of assurance, we see no objection to your holding the policy. Our criticisms have had reference more particularly to their bonds and investment policies, combining house purchase.

Liverpool Victoria Insurance Corporation.—J. W. (Chester).—The benefits being guaranteed makes the policy secure. The point you have to consider from an investment standpoint is as to the likelihood of satisfactory Bonus yields and the conditions relating to Surrender Values and Paid-Up Policy.

SPORTING.

Patrick O'Brien (Lucerne).—A. T. (Northampton) and Others.—Mr. O'Brien calls his novel Combination Sweep an "Omnibus." Doubtless there will be room for you all. We must refer you for full particulars to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, Switzerland. His Sweepstakes are perfectly straight.

Calcutta Sweepstake.—"Sweeps" (Edmonton).—Tickets are now obtainable only through members of the Calcutta Turf Club. Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien, of Lucerne, are thoroughly respectable firms, and you may safely deal with them.

Totalisator (Lucerne).—Mrs. V. E. O. (Cornwall).—You must apply to Mr. H. Cullerne-Bown, The Totalisator, Lucerne, for particulars.

John Bull Football Cup Sweep.—Believing Ben.—What is an "independent journalist," and what was the matter with the committee of previous prizewinners?

John Bull Derby Sweep.—J. W. G. (Norton-Cuckney).—Postal orders should be made payable to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, and crossed "& Co." The Derby is run on May 27th.—T. G. (Dublin).—A whole book, containing ten tickets, is £1 instead of £1 5s.—A. K. (Hampstead).—The rumour you mention is entirely without foundation. Messrs. Smallman and Terry are responsible for the whole of the expenses in connection with the Sweepstake, and make no deduction whatever from the winnings.—"Bruha."—We can only refer you to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva.—N. E. (Methil, N.B.).—As you had paid for the tickets, Messrs. Smallman and Terry naturally retained the counterfoils for inclusion in the Draw, and sent you the top halves.—C. S. (Seven Kings).—Your letter must have miscarried. You are evidently a good sportsman, and Messrs. Smallman and Terry require no better reference than that.—C. B. (Eastbourne).—The last day for posting in England is Monday, May 18th. The result of the Draw will appear in John Bull for the week ending May 30th. Take no notice of anything you have heard. Nothing will interfere with the Sweep.

Gale's Special.—R. F. (Liverpool).—We understand Maiden Erlegh was the Editor's sole selection for the City and Suburban, and that never more than one selection is given on their Primus Wires. Quite reliable.

George H. Warwick.—H. E. (London).—Quite a dependable firm, and thoroughly straightforward.

H. Diamond (Lucerne).—Anxious.—We can only repeat that we have satisfied ourselves over and over again that Mr. Diamond's Sweeps are straight.

Final Coupon This Week. £1,000 for Easy Cricket Forecast—£200 Must be Won.

CITY NOTES.

(*For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see Letter Bag pages.*)

The Stock Markets.

Market sentiment is swinging round to a more optimistic view of the outlook, and all that is wanted to make everybody bright and merry is a little more business. That will doubtless come if there are no more shocks to disturb confidence. For a time things certainly looked sufficiently black, and the heavy losses which had to be faced in several departments created fears that there might be widespread trouble at the fortnightly settlement. But difficulties foreseen can usually be surmounted, and that proved to be the case on this occasion, only one failure being announced on Pay-day. Then the political situation came to be regarded as much less strained, and the offer of mediation by Argentina, Brazil and Chile, it is hoped, will provide the United States with a means of saving her face without embarking on a long and costly war in Mexico, although it would be a mistake to imagine that it is all over bar the shouting. However, dealers are glad of any excuse to be cheerful after the long spell of pessimism from which they have been suffering, and under the lead of Consols, Home Railways, &c., substantial recoveries were recorded in most of the principal markets, with the bears scuttling to cover in all directions. There are still many weak spots of course, and if the Mexican trouble drags on it must have a very adverse effect on Canadian and American finance. The Oil market received a nasty jar in connection with the Egyptian field, in which there has been a great deal of speculation recently, but good judges are inclined to think that the importance of the water trouble may have been exaggerated. Otherwise the market looks healthy enough.

Another Burst "Trust."

The Dominion of Canada Trust Corporation, Limited, is another concern that happens to be in a very bad way, the eight directors having made a sad mess of its affairs. At the recent meeting of the company the Chairman attributed the lamentable position partly to political unrest. He remarked: "If only the Governments at home in Canada, South Africa and the United States would leave commerce and trade alone, things would be much better. It was their constant interference which hampered trade." We must really ask Mr. Asquith, Mr. Borden, Sir Sydney Buxton and President Wilson to give the directors of the Dominion of Canada Trust Corporation a chance.

The Pecol Oil Combine.

For the asking, readers, by writing to the Secretary, 14-16, Cockspur Street, S.W., will be able to obtain the prospectus of one of the most novel enterprises launched for years. The promoters have created twenty-nine companies, each of which is to drill for oil on its particular location in Eddy County, U.S.A. Intending investors are invited to apply for shares of £1 each in any, or all, of these companies and, however small their application may be, they will acquire a further interest in the Pecol Drilling Co., Ltd., the entire capital of which is held by the twenty-nine oil companies. The Pecol Drilling Co., Ltd., will receive 50 per cent. of the net proceeds of oil from the area worked by any (or all) of the companies, so that if the investor should be interested in one of the concerns upon which little or no oil may be found, he will still benefit from the profits made by the Drilling Company from the others. The whole scheme may be likened to backing three favourites both to win and for a place, except that the odds in favour of the investor are nearly ten times greater. In addition, applicants for but one share in each of the twenty-nine Pecol companies will be entitled to one Royalty certificate allowing the holder to participate proportionately in 5 per cent. of the proceeds of all oil sold in each year from the field by the Combine. The scheme is most ingenious, and merits favourable consideration not only on this account, but also on the intrinsic merits of the field to be exploited, which according to several well-known experts, headed by Mr. A. L. Furber, late manager of the Oilfields of Mexico Company, are exceptionally promising. The board of directors, with Sir Gerard Smith, K.C., M.P., as chairman, is a very strong one. We commend this issue to the notice of our readers as likely to prove highly profitable to them.

The Rhodesian Land Question.

We have urged on many occasions that the question as to who owns the unalienated land in Rhodesia be settled once and for all, and we note with satisfaction that Mr. Lewis Harcourt now proposes to invite a decision on the point from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The matter is not so simple as it looks, for if the company really owns the land, the refusal of the Government to renew the Charter on its expiry would lead to something like a deadlock, whilst if the company does not own the land, the value of its assets would have to be written down drastically, with great loss to its shareholders. But the question will have to be faced sooner or later, and it is as well that it is being tackled at last.

Poor Millionaires.

Not many years ago the firm of A. Goerz and Co., would have been classed as one of the dozen wealthiest in the world, but for the past year the best it can do for its proprietors is to show a loss of £23,450, without making any allowance for depreciation on its holdings. That must amount to quite a big sum—close on half a million as a matter of fact—and without the remotest hope of any substantial or permanent improvement the outlook must be regarded as gloomy in the extreme. The company has a capital of £1,500,000, and the shares stand at 3½ dollars, as compared with £3 10s. in 1905. What a downfall—Chinese labour, Kaffir labour and all thrown in! Readers will now begin to understand why for a long time past we have persistently discouraged speculation in South African mines?

Canadian Northern.

What a fine thing it must be to have a tame Government in your pocket! Sir Wm. MacKenzie, President of the Canadian Northern Railway system, announces with great glee that the Dominion Government, after "thorough investigation," has definitely decided to guarantee a trifle of £9,000,000 for the completion of the line. That is all; only another 25s. per head loaded on to the unfortunate inhabitants of the country. Apparently there is no real effort made to discover whether the line is needed or whether it will pay, but it looks sufficiently attractive to get more money out of British pockets, and that is quite justification enough for anything. We often wonder how long it will take investors here to realise the actualities of the situation. Canada may become a big country in time, but when every man, woman and child owes nearly £100 to foreign creditors, it is a terrible handicap to any real progress.

The Nedenes Molybdenite, Limited.

This Company is formed to mine Molybdenite, a rare mineral, which has lately increased in value from about £100 to £600 per ton, since its properties have become more fully known to Metallurgists and Manufacturers of Explosives. The Company has a capital of £60,000 and taking the selling price of Molybdenite at only £280 per ton an estimated profit is shown of over 90 per cent. on the capital of the Company. There is here a wide margin, and as a speculation these shares are worth attention. The directors are of good standing, and specialise in this class of business; the offices are at 12, Coleman Street, London, E.C., where prospectuses can no doubt be obtained.

Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.

As we anticipated would be the case, the statements made at the Annual General Meeting of the Company were wholly satisfactory. The chairman entered fully into the position, and emphasised the importance of the shale properties which the Company are dealing with, Mr. Cunningham Craig's report upon which we referred to last week. Mr. Macalister, in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts made some important quotations from Mr. Craig's report, and stated that the shareholders of the company would be offered the opportunity of underwriting, on the same terms which were being arranged with certain financial groups, the capital of the new company which was being formed to deal with these properties. There was not a dissentient voice at the meeting, and the proceedings fully justified the good opinion we have all along expressed concerning the possibilities of the Company.

Now for Our Cricket Cash. Final Coupon appears This Week. See page 33.

ALL PRIZES IN THIS COMPETITION WILL BE

GRAND WHITSUNTIDE "BULLETS" PRIZE LIST

1ST. Prize £1,000

THIS WEEK ONLY.

2ND. Prize £100

This week we are making a record offer for the Whitsuntide Holidays. In addition to the Special Holiday Prizes, we have increased our First Prize to the enormous sum of £1,000 (One Thousand Pounds), and our Second Prize to £100. No reader should miss this grand Whitsuntide Offer of 6,123 prizes to the value of over £2,000.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 examples:

PREPARING FOR HOLIDAYS
WHEN GLASS RINGS
DECEIVING THE EYESIGHT
BARELY NOTICEABLE
WHITSUNTIDE TRIP
MOTHER-IN-LAW'S ADVICE
TAXING THE PEOPLE
ALL SMILES
VOTE OF CENSURE
PAYING CALLS

EVADING THE ISSUE
TRANSPARENT SHAM
GOING TO POT
CRUSTY GRUMBLE
CHEAP JEWELLERY
SUNDAY MORNING WALK
HONESTY'S REWARD
PLEASING HUGGF
WORKING AGREEMENT
FIRST BATH

TENDER AND TRUE
PARIS FASHIONS
SIDE ENTRANCE
BAD MANAGEMENT
AMATEUR ACTING
ENDS TOO SOON
INVENTING EXCUSES
A SNAKY SEAT
REFUSING DRINK
FASTEST WIN

GETTING MORE DIFFICULT
NURSERIES FOR LIBERTY
UPSETS EVERYTHING
SHINING LIGHT
A GOOD PITCH
THE GROWLER
THE LIONS' DEN
STAYING POWER
A DAY OUT
HOT STAKE

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST AND LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "Bad Management," and take the letters "E" and "S," using the word "in" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "Ends in Bankruptcy." From the example "Getting More Difficult" the Bullet "Living Howadays" can be formed. Again if you choose the example "All Smiles," using the letter "A" as initial for both the first and last word, you can make the Bullet "Actor When Applauded."

Competitors may send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

Extra coupons will be found in "Mary Bull" dated May 16.

Competitors can see the "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Thursday, May 14th.

Example.....

Bullet.....

Example.....

Bullet.....

(84) P.O. No.....

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 39.

Signed.....

Address.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

In consequence of this exceptional offer the closing date has been extended to THURSDAY, MAY 14th.

Closing date, Thursday, May 14th.

Example.....

Bullet.....

Example.....

Bullet.....

(84) P.O. No.....

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 39.

Signed.....

Address.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 94," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

The Result of this Competition will appear in our issue dated May 30th.

For Rules, etc., see opposite page.

DISPATCHED BEFORE THE WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

6,123 PRIZES VALUE £2,500

3RD Prize £25

FOR THIS WEEK ONLY

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRIZES.

10 of £10 EACH. 10 of £5 EACH.

100 PRIZES of 10/- EACH

1000 PRIZES of 2/6 EACH

5,000 OTHER HANDSOME PRIZES

RESULT OF 81ST BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500 :—
MR. P. ANDREWS,
70, Dancroft Road, Herne Hill, London, S.E.
Example :—COMPLETING HER SENTENCE.
Bullet :—IF SHE "CHEWS."

SECOND PRIZE OF £50 :—
MR. R. ELFORD,
33, Forde Road, Newton Abbot, Devon.
Example :—DOOR TO SUCCESS.
Bullet :—OUTSIDE NO "CATCH."

THIRD PRIZE OF £25 :—
MR. P. W. St. CLARKE,
47, Dieppe Street, West Kensington, W.
Example :—WEDDING BELLS.
Bullet :—EYES "PEELED" NEXT.

20 PRIZEWINNERS OF £2 10s. EACH.

MR. J. WATTS, 95, Park Road, Ilford, E.:
ALL TALK—LOW—TALLYMAN'S KNOCKING.

MR. W. C. KIRBY, 109, Tring Road, Aylesbury, Bucks:
ALL TALK—TO "FAST" TYPIST.

MR. CHAS. E. AUDSLEY, Berry Lane, Horbury, Wakefield:
TAKES SOME DOING—DECEIVING WIFE'S HOSE.

MR. THOS. H. HUGHES, 1, Crown Place, Harrogate:
TAKES SOME DOING—TRADESMAN RETIRING, NOWADAYS.

MR. J. M. SCORE, 208, St. John Street, E.C.:
LOSE STOCKING—NEEDED WHEN COURTING.

MR. J. PEDEN, 20, Raleigh Street, Islington, N.:
THE BACK ROW—ENTHUSIAST ASKS RESULT.

MRS. S. BARHAM, 37, Aubert Park, Highbury, N.:
EXPERT ADVICE—PLAYWRIGHT ENGAGES COSTERMONGER.

MR. K. H. ARTHUR, 66, Hinimans Road, East Dulwich, S.E.
A DARING PERFORMANCE—OFFERING "JEANES" COPPERS.

MR. R. STONE, 234, Normanton Road, Derby:
TAKES SOME DOING—DISCOVERING CHURCH DEBTLESS.

MR. F. T. JANSEN, 122, Grafton Street, Mile End, E.:
WELL OFF—LANDLADY WAS ONCE.

MISS DOROTHY KAYE, 29, Clemence Street, Limehouse, E.:
A DARING PERFORMANCE—"CUTTING" "THE CLOTH."

MR. GEO. H. BRUTY, 33, Sterndale Road, West Kensington, W.:
A DARING PERFORMANCE — RUSSIAN PUBLISHES CARICATURE.

MR. A. W. WHITEHEAD, 4, Heathville Road, Crouch Hill, N.:
INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT — ENCLOSED WITHIN TEMPLES.

MR. R. L. STEARNE, Woodside, Wheelock Heath, Sandbach, Cheshire:
THE FIRST SWALLOW—WORKS WONDERS—ADVERT.

MR. DONALD J. F. FRASER, Manor Cottage, Little Easton, Dunmow, Essex:
DOOR TO SUCCESS—DRUM AND "STICK."

ELLA GORE, 1, Milverton Terrace, Totteridge Lane, Whetstone, N.:
CHANGING HER DRESS—SLUT REVERSES APRON.

MR. H. BOYS, Hillside Road, Floore Hill, Weedon:
SPENDING TIME—EXCURSIONISTS—ON PLATFORMS.

MR. JAS. RENNIE, Junior, 20, Nursery Street, Kilmarnock:
FEELING HUNGRY—LEAVING VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT.

MRS. T. HIBON, "Daneburst," Westville Road West, Cardiff:
OTHERWISE ENGAGED—SCHOOLBOY'S CAP—TOWEL.

MISS FRANCES MCGRATH, 14, Gambier Terrace, Liverpool:
STAYS WITH ME—A LENGTHY AFFAIR.

Selection from 50 £1 Prize Winners.

AYRE, F. G., Foreman, Laboratory Inspection Dept., Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.
BATES, L. (Mrs.), 37, Firth Park Road, Sheffield.
BENNETT, G. E., 24, Glenthorn Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
BOOKLESS, J. D., The Rigg, Inverness.
BRADY, S., Station Veterinary Hospital, Woolwich, S.E.
BRETT, F., 228, Old Oak Common Lane, Acton, W.
BUCKSTONE, IDA, Theatre Royal, Smethwick, Birmingham.
CAMPBELL, W. S., 6, Keppel Place, Stoke, Devonport.
CANNON, P. J., County Council Office, Lifford, Co. Donegal.

BULLETS RULES. (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. A careful study of the winning efforts from week to week will also indicate the standard of merit to be attained. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 38, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ——. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, May 14.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

7. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

No element of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT Members of our special staff of Adjudicators who have been elected by reason of their high qualification for this work. This staff put aside all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious to qualify for a prize. So that, before any coupon is rejected, TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient merit to receive a prize. Then, all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to correspond with the total number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor, again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the lines of outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who, after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. This system of judging keeps a large staff of Adjudicators continually occupied the whole of the week—so thoroughly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can receive a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered many times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and the adjudicating staff in consultation, before the final awards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered, and re-read and re-considered by a specially selected staff of highly-qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of an experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill contest, free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection.

Complete List of all cash and other Prize-winners in the above Competition can be seen at the Offices of "John Bull."

Racing Notes.

This week is one of the most important in the year, containing as it does the races for the Chester Cup and the Kempton Jubilee. The meetings at which these races are run will have the field to themselves, except for the little Harpenden gathering on Thursday.

The Chester Cup has lost a little of its old-time importance, but still brings vast crowds to the Roodee. Lorenzo, who started slowly and ran second last year, will again be in the field, and this time will not have to meet the horse that then beat him, The Guller, for the latter, in consequence of the hard going, has had to be scratched. Lorenzo has only 3 lbs. more to carry now, and he must be very dangerous. Still, from all that can be gathered, he will have all his work cut out to beat

ALEPPO.

The Jubilee is one of the most popular handicaps of the year, and Saturday's celebration promises to uphold the reputation. Some sort of a market has been formed, and in it China Cock has been made favourite. He was "ours" when he won on the course on Easter Monday, and he is sure to run well again now. But at the same time he will probably not beat

BLUE STONE,

who has been highly tried. Prue is likely to be the selected of F. Hartigan's stable, and will be on the premises.

At Chester to-day (Wednesday) the best thing of the day and of the week is EAGER EYES* in the Badminton T.Y.O. Plate or the Stamford T.Y.O. Plate, for whichever race she is started. TOSSON is likely to win the City Selling Plate. On Thursday, BESS can win the Wynn T.Y.O. Selling Plate; RADIANT the Combermere Handicap; HALIFAX the Great Cheshire Handicap, and ALDFORD the Dee Stakes.

At Kempton on Friday GOLDEN SUN ought to win the Stewards' Handicap, and PANKATTAN the Kenton Three-year-old Plate. On Saturday NACHDEDORNE should take the River Handicap, and RADWAY the Three-year-old Plate.

At Harpenden on Thursday the best things are HOLLAND HOUSE for the Alexandra Stakes and ABOUKIR for the High Firs Plate.

THE JOHN BULL DERBY SWEEP.

Numerous inquiries are to hand respecting this big £50,000 Sweep, run under the management of the well-known firm of Smallman and Terry, of Geneva. Subscribers need be under no apprehension whatever. The Draw will most assuredly take place, and every penny of the Prize Money will be paid. All the proceedings over here about illegal posting of tickets, and the rest of it may be ignored. Some day the Post Office will come to its senses and welcome the revenue which now goes mainly to foreign countries.

RACING Competition

PRINCE'S HANDICAP, Run on May 16th.

£150 FOR PLACING First 3

Our Racing Competition has caught the popular fancy, and despite the croaking of the cranks, it offers an outlet for the sporting instinct of thousands of our readers. Look out, next week, for our Special "Derby" Competition. There is not a Briton, be he a sporting man or not, who does not take an interest in "The Derby." Well, we shall have a big increase in our prize money for the great event. Order your next week's copies of JOHN BULL in advance so that you may not be disappointed when you try vainly to buy the JOHN BULLS which have already been bought up by more enterprising readers.

£100 MUST BE WON.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

Opposite you will find a coupon containing the names of the horses entered for the Prince's Handicap, to be run at Gatwick on May 16th. Your task is to put the figure 1 in front of the name of the horse which you think will finish first, the figure 2 against the name of the horse which you think will finish second; the figure 3 against the name of the horse which you think will finish third. To the reader or readers placing correctly the first, second and third horses, we shall award £150. In the event of nobody placing all three correctly we shall award a prize of £100 to the person or persons sending in the most correct coupon.

HOW TO MARK YOUR COUPON.

If you think, for instance, that "*King Midas*" will win you must put the figure 1 opposite that horse's name. If you believe that "*Agnate*" will finish second, you must put the figure 2 opposite the name. If you predict that "*Annoy*" will finish third, you must put the figure 3 against the name. N.B.—You must not mark more than three horses on any single coupon, or else such coupon will be disqualified.

In the event of competitors tieing, the prize money won will be equally divided. The Editor's decision is to be final.

SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Since we go to press early it is impossible for us to foretell the scratchings which may be made. Consequently, all the horses whose names are given on the Coupon are not likely to run. In fact, 15 to 20 will be the probable number of Starters.

JOHN BULL ENTRANCE FORM.

HORSES ENTERED FOR THE PRINCE'S HANDICAP, TO BE RUN AT GATWICK, SATURDAY, MAY 16th.

	CYLLENE MORE		TINKLEBELL
	ROCORICO		GREENMEADOW
	AT LAST		NIMULE
	KING MIDAS		AMAMI
	ANNOY		DALLINGTON
	AGADIR		PEARLDIVER
	GRAVE GREEK		WAVELET'S BOY
	ASPARAGUS		CAFE DU MONDE
	WANONO		STUNG AGAIN
	HIMAN		SINGAPORE
	WAR MINT		FLURRY
	AGNATE		ST. RUTH
	CHARLTON		CHATEAU VERT
	MANILLA		VERMOUTH
	SHELSWELL		CARSON
	DONNITHORNE		NAZDAR
	WAVEBIRD		

I enter "JOHN BULL" Racing Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed.....

Address .....

.....

D

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

CLOSING DATE, MAY 15. Entries to be addressed to "John Bull," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner, Racing No. 4, and post so as to reach us not later than FRIDAY, MAY 15.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 38, where you will find particulars of "BULLETS."

GRAND WHITSUNTIDE PRIZE LIST THIS WEEK £1,000 for the best "Bullet" received—Second prize increased to £100. 6,123 Cash and other prizes to be won to the total value of £2,500, including 10 Holiday prizes of £10 and 10 of £5.

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The "SPECIAL" that Guarantees Your Success Maintains a Great Reputation.

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Since the commencement of March this year "Gale's Special" has given no less than SIXTY-FIVE WINNERS, including GRETA MOOR (100-8); GOLDEN RULE (7-1); DUKE OF TIPPERARY (10-1); ROYAL DEMAND (10-1); RED COIL (100-6); KENWAVE (6-1); THE BOSS 6-1); HOUNAM 6-1; OCYDROME (7-1); DUNHOLM (5-1); STRONG BOY (7-1); PRIM SIMON (10-1); and IRON DUKE (5-1); whilst

Our Latest Principal Event Triumph
(at the time of writing this advertisement)
is
MAIDEN ERLEGH for the City and Suburban
(The Editor's sole selection).

Next Monday's issue of "GALE'S SPECIAL," published at 2s. 6d. will be sent post free in plain sealed envelope upon receipt of 1s. P.O. or Stamps to all readers of "JOHN BULL" enclosing this paragraph

"Gale's" Late Telegraphed Reports.

Recent Wire Triumphs have included
THE BOSS (6-1) March 24th; GOLDEN RULE (7-1) March 31st; DUNHOLM (5-1) April 4th; OCYDROME (7-1) April 7th; THUNDERSTONE (9-4 D.H.) April 14th; SCREAMER (2-1) April 18th; MAIDEN ERLEGH (100-14) April 22nd.

Post Office proofs produced if necessary.

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The next selection on this GALE'S PRIMUS WIRE will be sent from KEMPTON PARK on FRIDAY, MAY 8th, and

As a Special Offer to JOHN BULL readers we will send this Special Wire upon receipt of £10, instead of the usual charge of £25.

and UNLESS THE SELECTION SENT OUT IS SUCCESSFUL, AND AT REASONABLE ODDS, WE GUARANTEE TO SEND OUR NEXT TATTERSALL'S RING WIRE ENTIRELY FREE OF CHARGE. On the other hand, should the selection win at the odds of not less than 8 to 1 against, subscribers will of course, forward the balance of £15.

Note that our ONLY address is:—

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